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The Rolls and Register OF Bishop Oliver Sutton 1280-1299

EDITED BY
ROSALIND M. T. HILL
M.A., B.LITT., F.S.A.

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THE
ROLLS AND REGISTER
OF
BISHOP OLIVER SUTTON
1280—1299

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ABBREVIATIONS AND NOTES

ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations are used :—

A. and C.	Abbot and Convent
P. and C.	Prior and Convent

NOTES

In transcribing Bishop Sutton's memoranda, I have followed as closely as possible the plan, devised by his admirable registrar, of calendaring the formal entries and copying in full those which have particular interest. Whenever a letter has been copied in full it is preceded by a summary, written in English, of its contents.

Formal entries consist of notes of dispensations, letters dimissory, grants of indulgences or ratifications of such grants, appointments of commissaries, licences, the reports of the benediction of abbots, and a few similar matters of diocesan administration. The Latin text of such entries, already compressed by the registrar to the barest minimum, would hardly repay transcription, and I have therefore made no attempt to give examples of these documents as they appear in the register. I have, however, given in English the substance of each note, including all names and dates. In the matter of spelling and of the transcription of the names of people and places I have followed the practice laid down in the first two volumes of Bishop Sutton's register. Dates have been given in the modern form, allowing for the practice of starting the new year on March 25 instead of on January 1. Thus an entry dated in the register January 1, 1281, appears in these volumes as January 1, 1282.

References to the text of the register have been given by folio and page when the letter appears in this volume, and by folio alone when it is contained in that part of the manuscript which is still unprinted. I hope that in subsequent volumes of the memoranda the indices will make it easy to verify any reference from the printed text.

CORRECTIONS FOR VOLUME I

- p. 19, l. 36 and l. 38—*for* Wragby *read* Wrawby. Correct also Index, pp. 282, 291.
- p. 33, l. 26—*for* Lutina *read* Lucina. Correct also Index, pp. 273, 294.
- p. 103, l. 39—*after* medietatis *insert* ecclesie.
- p. 104, l. 27—*delete* Data *insert* Acta.
- p. 150, l. 34—*for* fratre que *read* fratreque.
- p. 159, l. 42—*for* ? Ringdon *read* Ringsdon. Correct also Index, p. 272, to Ringsdon or Ringstone in Rippingale, a vill now lost.
- p. 167, l. 22—*for* ita quod *read* factaque.
- p. 168, l. 41—*insert* ordinis *between* Fratrum and Minorum.
- p. 173, l. 1—*for* Symoni *read* Simoni.
- p. 191, l. 37, and p. 241, l. 10—*for* Killingworth *read* Kilworth. Correct also Index, p. 264 (the entry should appear under Kilworth, co. Leic.), and p. 266 (under Lincoln, canons of), and p. 292 (under Northumberland).
- p. 281—Under Willoughby, Sir Philip of, *for* xx *read* xxi.
-

CORRECTIONS FOR VOLUME II

- p. 37, l. 36 and l. 37, and p. 78, l. 1 and l. 3—*for* Hulcote *read* Edgcote. Correct also Index, pp. 178 and 202.
- p. 55, l. 24 and l. 25—*for* Coates *read* Claycoton. Correct also Index, pp. 172 and 201.
- p. 56, l. 28—*for* Woodend *read* Woodhead in Rutland, and l. 29, *for* Woodend *read* Woodhead. Correct also Index, pp. 192, 202 and 203.

- p. 82, l. 31 and l. 33—*for* Potterspury *read* Perio. Correct also Index, pp. 185, 202.
- p. 86, l. 24 and l. 26—*after* Newbottle delete *Bridge*. Correct also Index, pp. 183, 202.
- p. 120, l. 17—*before* March 12 *insert* at Baumber. *Insert* Baumber, co. Linc. into Index, p. 168 and p. 201.
- p. 172—*after* Coddington delete Northant, *insert* Nott. Correct also Index, pp. 202–203.
- p. 182—*after* Misterton delete Northant, *insert* Leic. Correct also Index, pp 201–202.

INTRODUCTION

I

THE BISHOP AND HIS FAMILY

The history of England in every age has been notably influenced by men who, springing from undistinguished origins, have reached the highest offices in church and state by sheer ability and determination. Never have greater opportunities been offered to men of this kind than in the period between A.D. 1100 and 1300, when it was often not only an individual but a whole family which rose to the occasion. Since the time when Henry I 'raised men from the dust'¹ to high positions in the royal household, the work of administration in England rested to a great extent in the hands of those who were born into a tradition not of feudal authority but of public service. As a rule these men were not of aristocratic lineage, nor did they possess great lands. They owed their power, which was considerable, to their own intelligence and to their training in canon or common law. Eventually some of them became rich and married into baronial houses, but it was to talent, rather than to fortune, that they owed their ascendancy.

Oliver Sutton was born into a family of this kind. His grandfather was not even a knight; his great-great-nephew held a barony. During the thirteenth century his near relations attained high office in church and state, and acquitted themselves on the whole very well. The tradition of public service was already strong on both sides of Oliver's family when he was growing up, and it clearly influenced his whole career.

The Suttons took their name from the village of Sutton-on-Trent in Nottinghamshire. At the time of Domesday, the manor of Sutton was held by one Hervey 'the man of Count Alan of Richmond'.² A century later the land was in the possession of another Hervey, this time distinguished as 'Hervey of Sutton', who held also small estates at Warlaby and Coverham in the North Riding of Yorkshire.³ He was a country gentleman of modest means, glad enough to provide his daughter Julian with a dowry of eight bovates of land.⁴ Nothing is known of his life or character except for the fact that he was a poacher, whose depredations

¹ 'Alios e contra . . . de ignobili stirpe illustravit, de pulvere, ut ita dicam, extulit, dataque multiplici facultate super consules et illustres oppidanos exaltavit.'
Ordericus Vitalis, *Eccles. Hist.* XI, 2.

² V.C.H. Notts. I, pp. 253-4.

³ Pipe Roll 24 H. II, p. 70. *Ibid.* 25 H. II, p. 21. V.C.H. Yorks N.R., I, p. 146.

⁴ Pipe Roll 2 John, p. 88.

in the king's forest (sometimes in the company of 'Robert his man') twice resulted in a fine inflicted by the royal courts.¹ His wife's name is not recorded, but he had issue, in addition to Julian, three sons—Robert who seems to have died young, Richard and Rowland. Richard, the elder of the surviving sons, inherited the family estates, married a wife named Floretta and left five daughters.² There was not enough land to provide for Rowland, who had to seek a professional career. He entered the king's service and by 1229 had risen to the position of an itinerant justice.³ He married Alice, the daughter of his father's near neighbours Richard and Maud of Lexington, who held the manor of Tuxford about six miles from Sutton-on-Trent.⁴ This marriage had a considerable effect upon the fortunes of his house, for although Alice was neither wealthy nor of noble birth she came of a vigorous and talented family, and her four brothers all rose to high office either in church or state. Of the two who entered the service of the church, Henry became Bishop of Lincoln in 1254, succeeding Robert Grosseteste in that office, and Stephen was successively Abbot of Savigny and Abbot of Clairvaux. In 1256 he was deposed from his position as abbot on a charge of having obtained a papal privilege contrary to the statutes of Cîteaux. Although he had the pope's support, he refused to take advantage of it and 'bore the attacks and envy of his brethren patiently, like Joseph, . . . he refused to be reinstated, saying that he felt himself to be disburdened rather than dishonoured'.⁵ Robert of Lexington, another brother, 'being a person learned in the laws', became successively an itinerant justice and a justice in the Court of Common Pleas.⁶ He acquired the manor of Aston-le-Walls in Northamptonshire, and when he died after a long illness which left him paralysed⁷ this land passed to his brother John, Chancellor and Steward of the Household to King Henry III.⁸ On John's death without issue the manor of Aston, together with that of Theydon Mount in Essex, passed to his brother Henry Bishop of Lincoln, and from him to William of Sutton and Richard of Markham, the sons of the two sisters of the Lexington family, Alice wife of Rowland of Sutton and Cecily wife of William of Markham.⁹ In the early fourteenth century the Suttons of Aston, now considerable landholders in their own right, became, by a fortunate marriage with the heiress of John de Someri, Barons of Dudley.¹⁰

¹ Pipe Roll 22 H. II, p. 95. *Ibid.* 23 H. II, p. 60.

² V.C.H. Yorks N.R. I, p. 147. ³ C.P.R. 13 H. III, m. 6^d.

⁴ Thoroton's *Nottinghamshire*, ed. Thoresby, p. 220. 'Lexington' is another form of 'Laxton'.

⁵ Matt. Paris. Chron. Maj. (R.S.) V, p. 596.

⁶ Dugdale, 'Baronage', I, p. 473. ⁷ Matt. Paris, *op. cit.*, V, p. 138.

⁸ R. F. Treharne, *The Baronial Plan of Reform*, p. 22.

⁹ *Excerpta e Rot. Fin.*, p. 287.

¹⁰ Baker, *History and Antiquities of the County of Northampton*, I, pp. 470 and 479.

Rowland and Alice of Sutton had several children. One son, Robert, was old enough to accompany King Henry to France in 1242.¹ He took de Montfort's side in the baronial revolt and was pardoned, together with his nephew, William's son, by the king at the instance of Queen Eleanor.² This Robert left descendants who continued to hold land in Nottinghamshire and were eventually ennobled, with the style of Barons Lexington, by Charles I.³ Another son of Rowland and Alice was that William, already mentioned, who acquired the manor of Aston-le-Walls. Although definite proof is hard to find, it seems almost certain that there were two other sons of this marriage, Oliver the future bishop and Stephen who became Canon of York and Archdeacon of Northampton. Oliver and Stephen were certainly brothers.⁴ Stephen acted as executor for Robert son of Rowland,⁵ and Oliver interceded for, and obtained, the royal pardon for Richard, grandson of William son of Rowland, when he eloped with the young widow of Philip Burnel.⁶ Since Richard was still under age at the time of this escapade Oliver was entrusted with the guardianship of his lands. Some years later, when Richard was in Gascony during the campaigns of 1295-6, he again committed his lands to the custody of Oliver.⁷

It is thus clear that Oliver was closely connected with the family of Rowland of Sutton. Two other pieces of evidence suggest that he was in fact Rowland's son. One, on which too much weight cannot be placed, is his Christian name, which was uncommon in England during the early years of the thirteenth century. The French romances of the Charlemagne cycle would connect it irresistibly with the name of Rowland, and it would be pleasing (although it is unfortunately incapable of proof) to think that Alice and her husband had adopted the fashion, followed later by Queen Eleanor the wife of Henry III,⁸ for the reading of French romances. The other piece of evidence is rather more solid. In his youth Oliver sometimes used the name of Lexington in preference to that of Sutton.⁹ The practice of using one's mother's maiden name was not uncommon during the thirteenth century and did not imply illegitimate birth. An example occurs in the Lincolnshire family of de Scoteni; when Lambert de Scoteni died in 1202 his lands passed to Thomas and William de Scoteni, the sons of two heiresses of the de Scoteni family, one of whom had married first William son of Roger and afterwards Nicholas of Basing. The name of the other lady's husband is not known. The children of both these marriages, or at least some of them, seem to have used their maternal name of de Scoteni, probably because it gave them

¹ C.P.R. 26, H. III, part I, m. 5^d.

² *Ibid.*, 50 H. III, m. 41.

³ Thoroton, ed. Thoresby, *op. cit.*, III, pp. 110-1.

⁴ Sutton's Register, f. 21, p. 85.

⁵ Romeyn's Register, (Surtees Soc.), pp. 257 and 737.

⁶ Dugdale, *Baronage*, II, p. 213.

⁷ Sutton's Register, f. 135^v.

⁸ C.R. 1247-51, p. 263.

⁹ *Monumenta Franciscana* (R.S.), pp. 97-8.

a certain amount of distinction in a county where the family was already well established.¹ Oliver's own reasons for calling himself Lexington are not far to seek. Alice's family had become more distinguished than that of Rowland, and it would be natural for her son, looking for preferment in the church and hoping that the influence of his maternal uncles might secure it, to stress his connection with the house of Lexington rather than with that of Sutton. Moreover it is clear that traditions connecting the Lexingtons with the Suttons were preserved until the seventeenth century, when the descendants of Robert of Sutton took the name of Lexington, rather than the later form Laxton, for the title of their barony. There is no evidence, however, that Oliver continued to call himself Lexington after 1244.²

The date of the marriage of Rowland to Alice is unknown, and it is impossible to say exactly when any of their children were born. One son at least, as we have seen, was old enough to perform military service in 1242. It seems probable that Oliver was born about the year 1219. He was holding the living of Shelford as a subdeacon in 1244, when he obtained a papal dispensation allowing him to hold another church in plurality.³ No mention is made of his being under the canonical age to accept this fresh benefice, and it seems most unlikely that a man of his legal training and scrupulous character⁴ would have omitted to get a dispensation on this account if one were necessary. The assumption that he was born not later than 1219 would moreover bear out the statement of his friend and registrar, John de Scalleby, that when he died in 1299 he had reached a great age, '*in magna senectute*'.⁵ He cannot have been born much earlier than 1219, since Adam Marsh, writing not earlier than 1235 and possibly a year or two later, calls him a boy and says that he is as yet too young to undertake a cure of souls.⁶

As far as we know, Oliver went up to the university of Oxford when he was a very young man and spent the first half of his adult life there. He studied under Adam Marsh, one of the greatest teachers of the period, who liked him and took some pains to obtain preferment for him.⁷ Although he was primarily an administrator rather than a scholar or a theologian, Sutton's achievements at the university were sufficiently distinguished. He became a regent-master in arts, studied canon and civil law (it was this legal study in particular which influenced his conduct when he became bishop) and 'had proposed to ascend the master's chair in theology' when he was called away to become Dean of Lincoln in 1275.⁸ By 1260

¹ L.R.S. 41, p. 176.

² Since this introduction was written Miss Major has kindly called my attention to a charter witnessed by Oliver as 'Oliver de Lexington' in 1259. He was then a canon of Lincoln. Eynsham Cartulary, IV, p. 47.

³ Bliss, *Cal. Pap. Reg.* I, p. 211.

⁴ See below, pp. xxi-xxiii.

⁵ Scalleby's Life of Bishop Sutton, printed in Giraldi Cambrensis *Opera* (R.S.), VII, p. 211.

⁶ *Monumenta Franciscana* (R.S.), pp. 97-8.

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 187.

⁸ *Gir. Camb., op. cit.*, VII, p. 208.

he was already renting his own school in Oxford. It was known as Deep Hall or the 'Domus de Balehorn' and its site is now within the walls of University College. The rent was six-and-a-half marks a year, paid to the Abbot of Osney, and the premises consisted of three shops (which Oliver sub-let) in front, with a school or lecture-room above and a hall or scholars' lodging-house behind.¹ As the responsible tenant of such a hall he would have been bound by the statutes of the University to keep residence.²

His work at Oxford did not prevent him from holding various ecclesiastical benefices; indeed it was a common and quite legitimate practice at the time to use the emoluments of a living as a kind of 'fellowship' to maintain a scholar at the university. In December 1244 he was already rector of Shelford in the diocese of Ely and had a dispensation to hold another living in plurality.³ In 1249 the prior and convent of Shelford presented him to the mediety of Westborough⁴ in the diocese of Lincoln, a living which he held until 1270.⁵ He must at some time, probably during Lexington's episcopate, have acquired also in the diocese of Lincoln the church of Kibworth Beauchamp, which he resigned either in 1276⁶ or 1277.⁷ None of these benefices would have required him to be resident, so long as he saw to it that proper provision was made for the cure of souls. The question of his prebend is obscure. He would hardly have been elected Dean of Lincoln if he had not already been a member of the chapter, but the institution-rolls of Bishop Gravesend contain no mention of his name in connection with any of the prebends of Lincoln. Scalleby says, rather curiously, that before he became dean 'he was in residence for five years, as it is believed',⁸ and refers to him as '*canonicus Lincolnienſis ecclesie*'.⁹ Since Scalleby was the bishop's registrar for eighteen years, it is hard to believe that he did not know whether or not Oliver was keeping residence at Lincoln between 1270 and 1275. We may, I think, accept the statement that he was a canon. Scalleby clearly implies that when he was chosen as dean Oliver cut short his studies in theology at Oxford, but he might have been holding a prebend with leave of absence for the purpose of study, as did another canon of Lincoln, Master Gilbert of Seagrave, in 1297.¹⁰

In 1275 Oliver became Dean of Lincoln.¹¹ Family tradition bound him strongly to the see, of which Henry of Lexington had been bishop from 1254 to 1257. It is possible that he was also related to a certain canon of Lincoln named Richard of Sutton,¹²

¹ Osney Cartulary, ed. H. E. Salter, I, p. 194, and III, p. 105.

² Anstey, *Munimenta Academica*, I, pp. 13-4.

³ See above, p. xvi.

⁴ L.R.S. 11, p. 107.

⁵ *Ibid.* 20, p. 43.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 158.

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 161.

⁸ Bradshaw and Wordsworth, *Lincoln Cathedral Statutes*, I, p. lxxxiv.

⁹ Gir. Camb., *op. cit.*, VII, p. 208.

¹⁰ Sutton's Register, f. 170v.

¹¹ L.R.S. 20, p. 65.

¹² He was one of Richard's executors. Lincolnshire Archives Office, MS. Cragg, III, 25.

who twenty years earlier had obtained a royal licence 'to hunt with his own hounds the hare, fox, cat, badger and squirrel throughout the forests in the counties of Nottingham and Northampton'.¹ Of his activities as dean we know practically nothing except for a few documents preserved in the *Registrum Antiquissimum*,² which represent the usual work of a dean in the period and reveal nothing of the man's personal character. He seems to have worked hard, as might have been expected from the record of his activities when he later became bishop. He cannot have had much time to imitate Richard of Sutton in his hunting expeditions, even if his inclination drew him to such a pastime.

Oliver seems to have been popular as dean with his colleagues in the chapter, for when Bishop Gravesend died he was chosen unanimously, *per viam inspirationis*, as the new bishop.³ He was consecrated by Archbishop Pecham on S. Dunstan's Day, May 19, 1280.⁴ (the date is wrongly given in the Osney Annals as May 12⁵) and enthroned on the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, September 8, in the same year.⁶ A month after his enthronement there took place the greatest public ceremony of his episcopate, the translation of the relics of his predecessor, S. Hugh, to a new shrine at the east end of the cathedral, in the presence of all the famous people of England headed by the king himself.⁷

As bishop, Oliver was faithful to 'his spouse the church of Lincoln'. As his itinerary shows, he rarely left his diocese except when bound to attend meetings of Parliament or Convocation, or when he stayed at his family manor of Theydon Mount. He never left England after he became bishop. All his best work was done in his own diocese, and is reflected in his register, for he was not one of those churchmen who have made their mark on history primarily as statesmen or as scholars. References in contemporary chronicles to his activities are few and brief, and may be summarised quickly. In December 1290 he officiated at the funeral of Edward I's beloved wife Eleanor of Castile.⁸ In 1291 Pope Nicholas IV appointed him, together with the Bishop of Winchester, collector of the papal tenth which was to be given to Edward I for his crusade, stipulating that the money was to be banked in religious houses until the expedition was ready to set out. The collectors appear to have done their part, but the king did not do his. According to Walter of Hemingford 'he demanded the money from the said collectors, and took it by violence and force, nor did he set out (on his expedition) nor keep his promises'.⁹ Sutton was also appointed by the pope as judge-delegate in the matrimonial dispute

¹ C.P.R. 41, H. III, m. 8. ² L.R.S. 29, pp. 117-8, 123-4, 351-2, 355, 373.

³ Gir. Camb., *op. cit.*, VII, p. 208.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Annales Monastici* (R.S.), IV, p. 284. ⁶ *Ibid.*, See also L.R.S. 29, pp. 305-6.

⁷ Barlings Chronicle, printed in *Chronicles of the Reigns of Edward I and II* (R.S.), II, p. cxviii.

⁸ *Annales Monastici* (R.S.), IV, p. 326.

⁹ *Chronicon* (R.S.), II, pp. 26-7.

between Edmund Earl of Cornwall and his wife Margaret de Clare.¹ He shared this rather difficult responsibility with the Bishops of Winchester and Salisbury.

In 1294 relations between the king and the Church, already strained by Edward's failure to go on crusade, grew steadily worse. The king's commitments were heavy and his tastes extravagant ; living as he did in an age of rising prices and fixed revenues he was usually in desperate straits for money, and his means of obtaining it were unorthodox and sometimes questionable. He had become involved in a war with France, and when Convocation met in London on S. Matthew's Day, September 21, 1294, he asked for one-half of all clerical temporalities as a war-tax. In an attempt to make this demand more acceptable he pointed out that the lay feudatories were already risking their lives, which the clergy did not have to do, and that he had seized the stocks of wool held by the English merchants. In spite of these reminders that they were not suffering alone, the clergy resisted, but they had no obvious leader, since the see of Canterbury was vacant and John le Romeyn, Archbishop of York, was already deeply in the King's debt and seems to have been too much scared to offer serious opposition to the tax. Oliver Sutton tried to take the lead, but he could not organise resistance with any great success. He managed to obtain three days' grace for consultation, at the end of which the clergy offered to pay one-fifth of their temporalities in return for a repeal of the Statute of Mortmain. The compromise seems to have pleased nobody. The king was furious, and the clergy were too frightened and uneasy to present a united front of opposition, while Sutton was not enough of a statesman to find a way of keeping his supporters together.²

Throughout the following year the situation grew steadily worse, and the crisis came when in February 1296 Boniface VIII issued the bull *Clericis Laicos* in which he forbade the clergy to pay taxes to any lay person. In obedience to this decree the English clergy refused to contribute to an aid of one-fifth granted in Parliament in the autumn of 1296. The see of Canterbury was now held by Robert Winchelsey, who did his best to deal with an impossible situation. In a Parliament held in January 1297 he made a tactful speech explaining that the English clergy, loyal subjects as they were, had no choice but to obey the Pope ; Edward replied by publishing a sentence of outlawry against anyone who did not pay the tax. The clergy were left with the choice between obeying the Pope and being outlawed or obeying the king and being excommunicated.

The reactions of the various bishops to this horrible situation were interesting. Winchelsey stood firm. He waited until the

¹ Sutton's Register, f. 7v, p. 52.

² Hemingford, *Chronicon* (R.S.), pp. 54 *seq.*

royal tax-collectors had rifled his goods and turned him out of his palace before going quietly away, with no money and a retinue consisting of one clerk and one priest, to stay in the house of a friend. John le Romeyn of York, together with the Bishops of Salisbury, Durham and Ely, resorted to a device which saved their positions at the expense of their honour. While refusing to pay the aid, and thus obeying the letter of the Pope's decree, they arranged for the money to be left lying about in places where the collectors could not fail to discover it, thus making their peace with the king. Oliver Sutton clearly intended to follow Winchelsey's course of action, and he allowed himself to be deprived of all his lands and goods. He was, however, an elderly man at this time and one very well liked in the diocese which he had already ruled for seventeen years. Against his will (*etiam ipso voluntatem regis non ratificante*) his friends negotiated with the sheriff of Lincoln, who seized the appropriate amount of money and restored all the rest of the episcopal possessions.¹ The affair ended with a general reconciliation between the king and the clergy in the summer of 1297, when Edward, having got what he wanted, very affectingly burst into tears. One is left with the impression that Oliver had genuinely tried to do what he thought to be right, but that he lacked those qualities of statesmanship which were needed to handle so grave a situation.

The last two years of Oliver's life were peaceful, except for such difficulties as were bound to arise in the course of diocesan administration. His family was prospering, and he had several kinsmen working under him in his diocese. His health and vigour did not desert him until a few months before he died,² but there are indications that during the last years of his life he was a very tired man. (This was scarcely surprising in view of the immense amount of work which he accomplished and his incessant travelling—he had visited his diocese with a thoroughness which would have been impressive in a man of half his age.³) In his last years he enjoyed a nap at mid-day,⁴ and sometimes refused an invitation on the score of bodily weakness.⁵ In 1299, for the first time, he delegated his ordinations to another bishop.⁶ Yet he continued to travel round his diocese until less than a month before his death,⁷ and his last institution was performed on October 30, 1299.⁸ The final folios of his register have been lost, so we do not know when he sent out his last letter. On S. Brice's Day, November 13, 1299, he died at Nettleham '*in senectute magna et bona*'. Fortunate to

¹ Hemingford, *Chronicon*, (R.S.), pp. 116 *seq.*

² He was ill in October 1297, but this illness does not seem to have prevented him from working. Register, f. 169. It is probable that he had a short illness in November 1291. See note, p. 164.

³ See his itinerary, below, pp.

⁴ Register, f. 4, p. 14.

⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 44, and f. 169.

⁶ L.R.S. 39, p. xvii.

⁷ Register, f. 243^v.

⁸ *Ibid.*, f. 279.

the end, he died peacefully while his household priests and clerks in his room were singing Matins. They had reached the words in the Office of S. Brice :—

*'Iste confessor Domini sacratus
Festa plebs cujus celebrat per orbem
Hodie laetus meruit secreta
Scandere coeli'*

—when Oliver died.¹

His body was buried in Lincoln Cathedral on November 21. All the canons rode out to Nettleham and accompanied the bier as it was carried towards the city by the dead man's friends and kinsmen, and a cross was set up where the procession rested in the middle of its journey. At the city gates the bier was handed over to the leading citizens, who bore it into the cathedral.² The body was buried without a coffin, but the bishop's chalice and paten, fine examples of thirteenth-century workmanship, were placed in his tomb, together with his episcopal ring of gold set with rock-crystal and his pastoral staff, which was carved with maple-leaves and gilded.³ His body does not lie in the exalted splendour accorded to such bishops as Wykeham or Beaufort, but under the pavement trodden by the feet of those who come to worship God in the church which Oliver called 'his spouse the church of Lincoln'. He would have been glad of this, for he was a single-minded man.

His memory was kept green by a perpetual chantry and by the annual distribution of money to the chapter and to the servants of the cathedral. He had arranged the terms of this distribution himself according to the traditional custom, insisting upon proper discipline. Provision was made for everyone according to his rank, from the two shillings payable to each of the canons down to twopence each for the sweeper and the sacristan's boy and sixpence to be divided among the bell-ringers. Each man, however, must earn his money by attending the obit—there was to be no present for anyone who stayed away without a reasonable excuse.⁴ One of the first acts of Sutton's successor, Dalderby, after his consecration as bishop was to issue an indulgence of forty days to all those who should pray at Sutton's tomb for the repose of his soul.⁵

Oliver Sutton could not rival S. Hugh in saintliness of character or Robert Grosseteste in wisdom and statesmanship. Outside his own diocese his influence was not great, but he did outstandingly good work as a diocesan bishop. His clear, trained legal mind, his

¹ Gir. Camb., *op. cit.*, VII, p. 211.

² L.R.S. 29, p. 306.

³ For an account of the examination of the tomb and its contents in 1889, see J. Clements' article in 'Lincoln Diocesan Magazine', V, p. 76.

⁴ Register, f. 358^v—f. 359.

⁵ Dalderby's Register, f. 10.

steady and dignified insistence on standards of ecclesiastical discipline and his immense capacity for hard work were in the best traditions of the great reforming bishops of the thirteenth century. Above all, he was in the best sense of the word a charitable man. He bore no malice against the most tiresome or inefficient head of a religious house¹ or against the least satisfactory of parish priests.² He had the power of imaginative sympathy, which does not always accompany a marked capacity for efficient administration. He was gentle towards the insane³ (an unusual trait at that period) and treated the serfs on his manors particularly well.⁴ Instead of following the common practice of appropriating for his own use the fines paid by certain delinquents it was his custom to have them given to the poor, 'he caused all the money which he levied in fines upon adulterers and fornicators and other evil-doers to be paid by the delinquents themselves to mendicant brothers, poor nuns and the poor of the parish in which the sins were committed, with the testimony of the rural deans'.⁵ He took a personal interest in the choice of a coadjutor for a sick priest,⁶ or the substitution of some manageable practice of austerity for an impossible vow which a lady had made in a moment of rashness.⁷ He was particularly careful for the welfare of his colleagues in the service of the cathedral, from the canons to the choir-boys. Scalleby accuses him of taxing the prebends too heavily for the crusading tenth of 1291,⁸ but papal taxation was one of the standing grievances of the English clergy at the time, and in other ways the cathedral clergy had no reason to complain of the treatment which they received from their bishop. He arranged for the provision of a suitable dwelling for the vicars-choral, and commissioned his executors to finish building their kitchen and hall.⁹ As well as extending the cathedral itself he built a wall round the close, with convenient passages so that those who were going while it was yet dark to sing Matins might be safe from thieves and other nocturnal prowlers,¹⁰ and he erected a chapel for the parishioners of the old church of S. Mary Magdalen, which had been removed to make way for the cathedral.¹¹ He caused the practice of burial in the Minster Yard to be discontinued out of respect for the dead, whose graves had been trampled, and regard for the health of the canons.¹² He raised the daily commons of a canon from eight to twelve pence,¹³ and made extra provision for the support of the boys in the choir.¹⁴

The best testimony to Oliver's character comes from his registrar. John de Scalleby was an intelligent and critical man,

¹ L.R.S. 39, pp. 149-50.

² Register, f. 183v.

³ See below, pp. lv-lvi.

⁴ Gir. Camb., *op. cit.*, VII, p. 208.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Register, f. 144.

⁷ *Ibid.*, f. 175.

⁸ Gir. Camb., *op. cit.*, VII, p. 209.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ L.R.S. 29, p. 403.

¹² *Ibid.* 39, pp. 217-8.

¹³ Gir. Camb., *op. cit.*, VII, p. 209.

¹⁴ L.R.S. 39, pp. 129-30.

and he had worked with Oliver for nineteen years, travelling round the diocese, copying documents, checking the registers and appearing as witness to many of the bishop's official acts, while every few days he had to pack up his documents and move on. Such intimate contact between two men who must often have been tired, worried and over-worked was likely to reveal all the flaws in their respective characters. Yet John de Scalleby liked Oliver Sutton and admired him. 'He was a man constant by nature, prudent in directing things both spiritual and temporal, and a good ruler over his household, neither greedy nor extortionate. . . . After he died I talked about him to his confessor, who answered me in these words: "I cannot deny that he was a man most just, most steadfast and most pure".'¹

II

THE BISHOP AND HIS DIOCESE

I

A medieval bishop had to perform a threefold duty. In the first place, he was at once a prince and a servant of the Church. The outward symbols of his consecration were the ring and staff with which he was invested, the ring showing his marriage to his 'spouse' the cathedral church, and his staff, developed from the shepherd's crook, declaring his pastoral authority over the people of his diocese. As a good husband cherished his wife and a good shepherd led and defended his flock, so should a bishop cherish and defend his church and people. Like most English bishops in the thirteenth century, Sutton accepted these responsibilities seriously, and his register shows that the Church always occupied the first place in his mind and his affections.

Secondly, a bishop was one of the great tenants-in-chief of the realm. Before his consecration he had done homage to the King for the extensive lands which he held, and he was bound like any other tenant to fulfil his feudal obligations. These included not only service but also the giving of counsel to his lord, and the bishops always formed part of the King's *Magnum Concilium*. They sat with the secular lords in the nascent Parliament of the thirteenth century, and took their part in determining the policy of the kingdom. The summons to Parliament came to each bishop individually and had to be obeyed, although it normally meant that he had to spend some weeks outside his own diocese. Feudal dues must be paid and feudal services rendered. In the same way,

¹ Gir. Camb., *op. cit.*, VII, p. 211.

a bishop stood in the ordinary feudal relationship of lord to his own tenants. He appointed stewards and bailiffs, exacted feudal services and enfeoffed his men as did any other great lord of the land.

In the third place, a bishop was bound to perform certain administrative duties for the King. Some bishops, such as Roger of Salisbury in the twelfth century, had indeed been primarily administrators who subordinated their diocesan responsibilities to their work at the royal curia. Sutton was not of their number. He did what was required of him, acting as collector of the King's taxes among his clergy and using ecclesiastical censure against those who did not pay,¹ carrying out the decision of the justices in cases which had been begun by writs of *darrein presentment* and which concerned livings in the diocese of Lincoln,² and taking cognizance of the writ to waive the penalties of the Statute of Mortmain when pious donors made a *bona fide* gift to the Church.³ Beyond this there is little evidence of Sutton's work as a royal administrative official, for he avoided extra-diocesan responsibilities as much as he could. He had been trained in the schools and not in the royal household, and he does not seem to have had any desire for the political power and influence which fell to the lot of those who occupied a place in the inner ring of the King's personal advisers or in one of the great administrative offices of the kingdom.

Sutton's register, therefore, represents very fairly the main interest of his life as bishop, for it gives a detailed account of the work which he did as pastor of the diocese or as one of the suffragans of the province of Canterbury. It is the record of the daily work which he carried on over a period of nine-and-a-half years, written in the form of letters and notes which were copied into the manuscript within a few weeks, and usually within a few days, of the time when the business was transacted. The decisions were made and the letters written while Sutton travelled round his diocese, for a good bishop could not allow himself to take root in one place. As his itinerary shows,⁴ he was rarely to be found in his cathedral city, for his primary duty was to carry out continuous and thorough visitations of his people. Ideally the whole diocese should have been visited once in every three years, but in the diocese of Lincoln, covering an area which was bounded by the Humber in the North and the Thames in the South, such an ideal was impossible to put into practice. Nevertheless Sutton did his best. Except when he was attending meetings of Parliament or Convocation, or during his rare periods of illness, he travelled almost continuously. It was his custom to base his activities on one of his castles or manorhouses within the diocese, Stow Park, Nettleham, Sleaford, Louth, Newark, Liddington, Buckden, Fingest, Banbury, Thame,

¹ Register, f. 140.

² L.R.S. 39, p. 14.

³ Register, f. 268-268v.

⁴ See below, pp. 207-14.

Dorchester-on-Thames, Wooburn and Spaldwick. He could live in these places without being burdensome to his clergy, and set forth each day to visit some local monastery, or summon the clergy of the neighbouring rural deaneries to appear before him and give an account of themselves and their parishes. He would usually stay at each house for a week or so, sometimes (in the winter) for as long as seven weeks. At other times he would remain for several days at one of the wealthier religious houses of the diocese, such as Newstead-by-Stamford, Osney or S. Mary de Pratis at Leicester. When he had to use the hospitality of a small and poor religious house or of a parish priest he rarely extended his stay for more than a couple of days. He was a considerate man; moreover the quarters which a poor host could provide for the bishop and his train were probably extremely uncomfortable.

There were only two places outside the diocese in which Sutton was accustomed to stay for any length of time. One was his town house, the Old Temple in London, which had belonged to the Bishops of Lincoln since Robert de Chesney had acquired it in 1161,¹ and the other was his family's manor of Theydon Mount in Essex. The Old Temple served as his lodging for the periods when he was in London attending meetings of Parliament and Convocation, and he was generally to be found there in residence two or three times a year. Apparently he found town life uncongenial, for as often as he could he escaped for a short break to Wooburn or Theydon Mount. This latter house did not belong to the Bishops of Lincoln by virtue of their office. Grosseteste and Gravesend never owned it, and it is not mentioned in the inventory of episcopal manors and castles made in 1284.² It had formed part of the estates inherited from John of Lexington by his brother Henry, Bishop of Lincoln,³ and on Henry's death it passed to William of Sutton and his descendents,⁴ who still held it in the fourteenth century.⁵ The house at Theydon Mount is frequently mentioned in the Register as belonging to Bishop Sutton, so it seems probable that the Suttons of Aston-le-Walls leased it to their relative about the time when he became bishop, and that it reverted to them at his death.⁶ It was rather inconveniently placed for the purpose of visitation, but the bishop did a good deal of administrative work while he was staying there. Theydon Mount, Fingest

¹ L.R.S. 28, p. 15. Mr. T. F. Reddaway has kindly identified the site of this building for me. It lay on the south side of High Holborn between Chancery Lane and Staple Inn. Mr. Reddaway says "It must have been a wonderful situation when the bishop bought it, with fields lying to the north and the slope down to the river on the south".

² See below, p. xxviii.

³ *Cal. Inq. Post Mortem*, I, number 378.

⁴ *Ibid.*, II, number 43.

⁵ *A new and complete history of Essex* by A Gentleman (Peter Muilmin), III, pp. 292-3.

⁶ As his itinerary shows, he stayed there frequently between 1280 and 1298. See below, pp. 207-14.

and Buckden seem to have been his favourite dwelling-places, and he spent Christmas at Fingest or Buckden as often as he could.

In his travels, a bishop was entitled by canon law to claim hospitality for himself and a train of thirty horsemen. This was reasonable, for he had to have an armed escort suitable to his rank, and his work could not be performed without a number of assistants. John de Scalleby, who held the position of registrar for eighteen years of Sutton's episcopate,¹ was in constant attendance upon him, accompanied by at least two scribes² who were probably clerks of the bishop's household. There were two chaplains, Robert of Kibworth and Robert of Warsop, one of whom at least was included in the party,³ and a group of household clerks, some of whom were also canons of the cathedral.⁴ Prominent among these was Master Jocelyn of Kirmington, who acted as keeper of the bishop's seals (although he is never called chancellor) and whose name usually appears among those of witnesses to official documents. At some time between December 7, 1291, and January 28, 1292, he was appointed Archdeacon of Stow in succession to Master Durand of Lincoln, who had recently died, and he held this office during the rest of Sutton's lifetime.⁵ An archdeacon was normally supposed to reside in his own district, but Jocelyn's archdeaconry was a small one and he had in Master Benedict of Ferriby a capable official who could take his place. Other clergy in constant attendance on the bishop were Robert of Kilworth, John Maunsel, William of Stockton, Roger of Sixhills, Robert of Thorpe, Hugh of Harwood and Roger of Wing. William of Anlaby, notary public, acted as the bishop's legal adviser and drew up official documents for him.⁶ By special permission from the pope, a second notary named John of Ferriby was appointed in 1291⁷ and a third, John of Clipston, in 1293.⁸ One at least of them accompanied the bishop on his travels. There were two runners (*cursores*) or messengers, named John of Stow and Stephen. The name of Hamo or Hamund Hostiarius suggests a man specially entrusted with the duty of guarding the door.

The company must have travelled on horseback, for the rapidity of Sutton's progress makes it clear that he did not use the cart or horse-litter to which his age would have entitled him. He was a robust and very determined man. The safety of the

¹ 'The Book of John de Schalby', ed. J. H. Srawley (Lincoln Minster Pamphlets), p. 3.

² L.R.S. 39, pp. xvii-xviii.

³ When Robert of Warsop was appointed proctor at the papal curia in 1297, another chaplain must have replaced him, but this man's name is not recorded.

⁴ Jocelyn of Kirmington, Robert of Kilworth, John Maunsel and William of Stockton.

⁵ Register, f. 41v, p. 169, and f. 45, p. 182.

⁶ Several of these, with William's notarial mark, are still extant. Lincoln MSS. D. II. 62 (1).

⁷ Register, f. 42, p. 170.

⁸ *Ibid.*, f. 85-85v.

cavalcade was ensured by an escort of knights attached to the bishop's household, led in 1290 by the marshal Sir John of Bayton, '*armiger literatus*'.¹ Some time before 1296, perhaps as a result of advancing age, Sir John resigned the office of marshal to Sir Gilbert of Sutton,² but he did not quit the bishop's service. His name appears thenceforward among those of the clerks. During the years 1290-6 the knights in regular attendance upon the bishop were Sir Richard Taylor ('*Cissor*'), Sir John de Musters, Sir Geoffrey of S. Quentin, Sir Robert of Saundby, Sir Richard of Sutton (not the Richard who ran away with the heiress), Sir Walter Neville and Sir Richard of Pickworth. Later recruits included Sir Richard Burdon, Sir John de Trailly, Sir John of Louth, Sir Peter le Noreys and Sir Thomas of Kelshall.

The baggage of the company was carried on packhorses. John de Scalleby must have watched one of these beasts with a particularly anxious eye, for it bore on its back the official records of the see. Not only did the registrar take with him the rolls and quires which comprised Sutton's register,³ but he appears to have travelled also with the rolls of the bishop's four immediate predecessors. The institution-rolls of Hugh of Wells were consulted at Dorchester-on-Thames,⁴ Spaldwick⁵ and Buckden.⁶ Grosseteste's institution-rolls were examined at Louth⁷ and Nettleham,⁸ and Gravesend's at Louth,⁹ Nettleham¹⁰ and Lincoln,¹¹ and his memoranda at Buckden.¹² At Liddington, on January 8, 1299, 'the registers of the said bishop (Sutton) and his immediate predecessors were displayed in the midst of the company and read'.¹³ Many other instances could be quoted. Since no duplicate copies of these registers dating from the thirteenth century have survived, and since the amount of time and labour involved in making such copies would in fact have been prohibitive, it is clear that the registrar must have taken the original records with him on his journeys.

In addition, the registers kept by the bishop's official, the forerunners of the later Court Books, seem to have been carried round the diocese in case the bishop might wish to refer to them. In 1291 Sutton, being then at Stow Park, consulted the register of the official of Bishop Gravesend in order to issue a testimonial to the legality of a marriage.¹⁴ Although it may seem unwise to generalise from a single instance, it is probable that Sutton, a bishop who laid great stress upon the exact observance of the law, insisted that these legal records should be accessible to him wherever he might be. There is no reference, in his memoranda, to the registers of his own officials, but it seems reasonable to assume that

¹ Register, f. 16v, p. 75.

⁴ Register, f. 94.

⁷ *Ibid.*, f. 174.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, f. 179v.

¹³ *Ibid.*, f. 276v, L.R.S. 43, p. 155.

² *Ibid.*, f. 151.

⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 105.

⁸ *Ibid.*, f. 179v.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, f. 190.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 22v, p. 92.

³ L.R.S. 39, p. 135.

⁶ *Ibid.*, f. 204.

⁹ *Ibid.*, f. 174.

¹² *Ibid.*, f. 11v, p. 52.

such records were kept. Sutton was not the kind of man to allow this precedent to lapse.

Other records were deposited at the bishop's manors or in the treasury at Lincoln. John de Scalleby once made a note that he had left a bag containing several papal bulls, some legal documents and 'certain other small manuscripts which did not seem to be of any value' in the manor-house at Theydon Mount.¹ Two legal documents handed over for safe-keeping by the prioress of Studley were packed in a basket and placed in the registrar's strong-box at Buckden.² A royal charter concerning the manor of Asfordby was deposited with the seneschal at Newark.³ A store of archives was kept in the treasury of Lincoln cathedral. These manuscripts included charters,⁴ papal bulls,⁵ copies of important letters of presentation,⁶ cyrographs,⁷ wills⁸ and the records of inquiries held about advowsons.⁹ A copy of an extremely interesting document referring to these archives occurs in the Court Roll Books of Stow. It describes an inventory made in Lent 1284 of all those manuscripts in the cathedral treasury which contained material of importance to the bishop or the see of Lincoln. Royal charters and instruments dating from the reign of William I to that of Edward I were stored by themselves in a cupboard, the documents issued in each reign being placed in a separate basket. All other charters and instruments relating to land-tenure were stored in 'a certain long chest' and filed according to the places to which they referred. Room was found in the same chest for documents relating to advowsons, records of money granted by the clergy to the King and other archives of the same type.¹⁰ Since only a seventeenth-century copy of this inventory survives, it is impossible to tell who wrote it in the first place. The whole plan suggests the careful and systematic work of John de Scalleby, who as registrar in 1284 would have been responsible for keeping the documents.

The episcopal records included a 'roll of corrections', but it is not clear whether this was carried round the diocese or deposited at Lincoln.¹¹ Visitation rolls existed but they have now disappeared with the exception of a small fragment relating to a visitation of Wellow Abbey.¹² It is known that a set of such records, relating to the archdeaconry of Stow, had been accidentally burnt before 1296¹³ and others may have been lost in the same way.

¹ Register, f. 164.

² *Ibid.*, f. 203^v.

³ *Ibid.*, f. 25, p. 105.

⁴ Stow Court Roll Books, 1663-1679, f. 1.

⁵ Register, f. 44.

⁶ L.R.S. 39, p. 37.

⁷ Register, f. 95.

⁸ *Ibid.*, f. 34, p. 138.

⁹ Stow Court Roll Books, 1663-1679, f. 1^v.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, f. 1-1^v. Printed in translation by W. O. Massingberd, in 'Architectural and Archaeological Societies Reports and Papers', vol. XXIV, p. 313.

I am indebted to Mrs. Varley for bringing this document to my notice.

¹¹ Register, f. 85^v.

¹² This MS. is in the Diocesan Record Office at Lincoln.

¹³ Register, f. 135^v.

Visitation-records were of more transitory importance than the letters and institutions copied into the register, and they appear to have been preserved less carefully.

The general system by which these archives were kept is clear, and as one would expect from John de Scalleby it is extremely methodical. Documents which were constantly needed for purposes of reference accompanied the bishop on his travels. Those which were valuable in themselves but unnecessary in the ordinary business of diocesan administration were stored at Lincoln, and in 1284 they were arranged and calendared in such a way that any individual manuscript could quickly be produced without the need for a long search. The records kept in the bishop's manors were normally documents of local interest, to which a steward or a local landowner might refer without the trouble of sending a messenger to Lincoln. The bagful of papal bulls at Theydon Mount represents Scalleby's only known lapse from this careful scheme of arrangement.

The use of such extensive records, which were not provided with any index, presented the registrar with a serious problem. Scalleby tried to make his work easier, so far as he could, by keeping careful notes of the places in which various manuscripts had been stored, and by making a habit of writing the marginal headings in the register in his own clear hand, even when the actual document was entered by one of his clerks. An elaborate system of cross-referencing, by roll or by quire and folio, was sometimes reinforced by pen-and-ink drawings in the margin, for Scalleby had considerable artistic talent of a rather impish kind, and he turned it to good account. He developed a system of marginal signs, in which a crozier stood for business in the archiepiscopal court and a man's head wearing the *pileus* (a round cap worn by scholars) for matters concerning the university. Pairs of hands with extended fore-fingers or pairs of daggers served to connect separate letters dealing with related subjects. Occasionally drawings of the heads of men with very ill-favoured faces seem to indicate documents concerned with the misdeeds of the clergy, but the coincidence is not invariable and may simply be due to the fact that Scalleby enjoyed drawing a good caricature. These marginal signs in general must have been a useful aid to quick reference.

Much of the diocesan business was carried out by means of mandates addressed to the bishop's official, his archdeacons and their officials, and in a more restricted field, to the rural deans, but Sutton took a keen personal interest in the affairs of his diocese and when serious disputes arose, or persistent evil-doers had to be punished he preferred, if possible, to cite the parties to appear before him or before special commissaries whom he had appointed. This did not mean that the jurisdiction of the archdeacon was ordinarily suspended (except during an episcopal visitation of his

district) or that archdeacons acted simply as the executors of the bishop's mandates. On the contrary, it is clear that their courts were doing a great deal of work, and that archidiaconal synods were meeting regularly. Of the chapters held by rural deans we know little, but such assemblies certainly met. However, a bishop's register cannot be expected to contain much information about the formal meetings of his diocesan clergy. Archdeacons and rural deans appear in it chiefly as the recipients of mandates from the bishop, telling them to perform some particular duty and report to him when it was done. Such mandates were never intended to cover the whole field of ecclesiastical authority. Ordinary matters of village morality, such as penances for fornication or for absenting oneself from church, or minor disputes between the clergy and their parishioners, do not as a rule appear in the register, presumably because they could be settled in the archdeacon's court without reference to the bishop. Sutton expected his archdeacons to be hard-worked, and all our evidence suggests that they were.

Archbishop Pecham, in his statutes promulgated at the Council of Reading in 1279, assumed that archdeacons would hold synods four times a year, and that all the clergy of the district would be present. He seems to have expected that some laymen also would attend the synods, since he ordered the archdeacons to exclude them, in order to prevent scandal, before announcing the penalties which were to be imposed upon clerics who kept *focariæ* or concubines.¹ Such synods were being held in the diocese of Lincoln as early as 1229,² and Grosseteste's letters indicate that he expected them to be held regularly and efficiently. Thus he ordered the archdeacons '*tam in synodis quam in capitulis*' to forbid scot-ales, riotous games and festivities at wakes, and to tell the parish priests to issue warnings to mothers not to take their babies to bed with them for fear that the little creatures might be overlaid.³ In another letter he instructed the archdeacons to put an end to such heathenish rites as play-acting in churches or the ancient custom of the carrying-in of summer.⁴ Both letters imply that the archdeacons had authority to enforce penalties upon those who disobeyed their injunctions, and this authority must have been enforced through their courts.

Sutton's mandates indicate that he assumed the existence of the archidiaconal synods as a matter of course. Archdeacons, for example, were bidden to order all the clergy of their district, both regular and secular, to offer special prayers for the King's success in the war against the French.⁵ When a religious order was granted a dispensation to beg for money in spite of the papal

¹ *Documents illustrative of English History in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries*, ed. H. Cole, p. 363.

² L.R.S. 29, p. 29.

³ *Epistolæ*, ed. H. R. Luard (R.S.), p. 72.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 317.

⁵ Register, f. 134.

ban upon such collections in general, a note of the fact was sent to the archdeacons in order that they might explain it to their clergy.¹ The collection of the King's tenth in 1291 was enforced through the archdeacons,² and in November of that year they were told to make a public announcement that no candidates, other than beneficed clergy and members of religious communities, would be accepted for ordination in the following month.³

Archdeacons and rural deans had the power to declare sentences of excommunication without previous reference to the bishop. This is illustrated by the fact that a number of the people obdurate under sentence of excommunication (for whose arrest petitions were sent to the King) had not fallen under the church's ban as a result of any special episcopal mandate. When an excommunication of this kind was published, a report had to be sent to the bishop, and another report was sent later if the offender did not seek absolution.

Rural deans, as the senior and responsible priests of a district, frequently received mandates from the bishop ordering them to enforce discipline and to pronounce sentences of excommunication. They were sometimes told to assemble six or twelve other priests for the purpose, in order to make the ceremony more impressive.⁴ Rural deans were also responsible for citing people to appear before the bishop or his commissaries for judgment, a duty which could at times be both disagreeable and dangerous. When the Dean of Wendover tried to cite Sir William de Turville to answer a charge of 'enormous sacrilege in the church of Penn' he was spitefully treated by Sir William's men and his horse was stolen.⁵

The rural dean had certain judicial powers, although he acted mainly as the executive officer of the bishop, the archdeacon or their respective officials. As well as presiding in the ruridecanal chapter he acted, as Professor Tout has said, as a kind of secretary, summoning the parties to suits and their compurgators and reporting the results to the bishop.⁶ He also enforced the decisions of higher courts and saw that penances were carried out. The Dean of Horncastle-and-Hill was ordered by the bishop to desist from trying to compel Alice of Worlaby to live with a husband who had repudiated her for adultery, when the archdeacon's court had apparently tried to force her to return to him.⁷ The dean's own judicial authority seems to have been confined to the holding of inquests to determine, for example, the legality of a marriage, the legitimacy of an heir, or the sufficiency of the lands and revenues assigned to the support of a particular chantry. On one occasion the Dean of Louthesk had to superintend the purgation, by twelve oath-helpers,

¹ Register, f. 134.

² *Ibid.*, f. 40v, p. 165.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 164.

⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 80-80v.

⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 43v-f. 44, p. 177.

⁶ Introduction to Halton's Register, Diocese of Carlisle, (C. and Y. Soc.), I, p. xxxv.

⁷ Register, f. 26v, p. 108.

of certain parishioners accused of conspiracy to defraud the church of Kirkby-on-Bain of its accustomed offerings, but he did this in virtue of a special commission from the bishop.¹

The records of these lesser ecclesiastical assemblies must have been kept, but no such document has survived from the period of Sutton's episcopate. References in a bishop's register are bound to be few and brief, because so long as the local courts were working well the bishop had no reason to interfere with them. The whole subject is obscure, probably for the very reason that the activities of archdeacons and rural deans were so much a normal part of diocesan life that no particular care was taken to see that the records were preserved. Moreover, any important announcement made in an archidiaconal synod would be recorded in any case, because the mandate existed in the bishop's register, so that there was no particular reason for preserving with meticulous care an account of the synod itself.

Sutton made great use of commissaries who were appointed *ad hoc* for special purposes such as the determination of lawsuits between clerics or the settlement of executors' accounts. A separate mandate was issued in each individual case; three or four commissaries would usually be appointed but a clause inserted in the mandate empowered two to act if all could not be present. As a rule these commissaries were drawn from the ranks of the cathedral canons or of the archdeacons, but a local parish priest or the head of a religious house was sometimes appointed on account of his special qualifications or his knowledge of the case. The bishop relied especially upon a small group of the senior clergy whose names occur repeatedly in these commissions. This group of legal experts included all the archdeacons except William de Estiniaco, Archdeacon of Lincoln, who is conspicuously absent. He was a foreigner (and Sutton had his share of the ordinary prejudices of his age), moreover in 1296 he obtained from the Pope a dispensation allowing him to leave his archdeaconry for the purpose of study.² The other archdeacons all acted as commissaries, and in this capacity Master William of Wootton, Archdeacon of Huntingdon, and Master Jocelyn of Kirmington, Archdeacon of Stow, appear to have worked particularly hard. Clergy of the cathedral appointed frequently as commissaries included Master Henry of Benniworth the subdean, Master William of Langworth, William of Hearnor, Simon of Worth and Master William of Thornton. The name of Master William of Fotheringhay appears constantly; he was keeper of S. Peter's altar in the cathedral, and this post, always allotted to a legal expert, carried with it the responsibility of acting as *auditor causarum* to the dean and chapter. The dean, Master Philip of Willoughby, was not used as a commissary, presumably because his official duties kept him busy. John Dalderby, who

¹ Register, f. 27, p. 110.

² *Ibid.*, f. 143v.

became chancellor in 1293, was not employed as a commissary until 1298, but the bishop's officials, Master Henry of Nassington and his successor Master Nicholas of Whitchurch, were often given *ad hoc* commissions as well as their ordinary duties.

Most of these men, upon whose judgment Sutton relied, were his personal friends. He seems to have been on good terms with the senior clergy of his diocese, and with many members of the cathedral chapter, although in 1298 he complained that papal provisions were filling the prebends with foreigners who were worse than useless to the church.¹ Some of the pope's nominees were, in fact, tiresome self-seekers who caused trouble out of all proportion to their numbers, but Sutton appears to have been exaggerating when he described the chapter as being full of them. Twenty-nine prebendaries are mentioned in the register, and of these four, Thomas de Cantansano, Amadeus, John de Colonna and James de Buccamentis, were foreigners and the first three at least had been provided by the pope. William of Sardinia, a canon who became Archdeacon of Oxford in 1298, had a foreign name, but he could hardly be classed as an inexperienced upstart since he had already done creditable service in the household of Archbishop Pecham.² All the other canons who are mentioned had distinctively English or Anglo-Norman names except for one, Edward S. John, described as a King's clerk and a papal nominee, whose supporters behaved very badly over the affair of the church at Thame.³ Among the archdeacons, William de Estiniaco of Lincoln was a foreigner whom Sutton disliked, Simon de Gandavo of Oxford must have had Flemish ancestry but had become entirely Anglicised, and Percival de Lavagna of Buckingham was a brother of the legate Ottobono and had occupied his position since 1268. The offices of dean, subdean, treasurer and chancellor of the cathedral were held by Englishmen throughout Sutton's episcopate. In 1293 however a troublesome non-resident pluralist, Peter of Savoy, was provided by the pope to the office of precentor, vacant by the death of Adam of Brampton, who seems to have been well-liked by his colleagues. Lincoln saw nothing of Peter until he came to be installed in 1305, but he indulged, through his proctors, in vexatious disputes. Before he became precentor he had tried to get a provision to the prebend of Thame 'by suppression of the truth, because if he had told it he would never have got any letters providing him to a prebend in the church of Lincoln'⁴ but Sutton succeeded in baulking him. Later he complained that the dean and chapter were infringing his rights by making rules for the choir.⁵ Peter's exasperating behaviour may well have hardened the bishop's prejudice against foreign clergy.

¹ Register, f. 176.

² *Reg. Epist. Johannis Peckam*, ed. Trice Martin (R.S.), III, p. 789.

³ Register, f. 63^v. See below, pp. xl-xli. ⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 61. ⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 169^v.

It is of course possible that many of the prebends which are not mentioned in the register were held by foreigners. If so, one can only say that such canons appear to have caused no positive trouble to the bishop, his household or his diocese. It is more likely that foreigners were not unduly numerous in the chapter, but that their tenure of two important offices, those of precentor and Archdeacon of Lincoln, caused trouble out of all proportion to their numbers. At the end of the thirteenth century foreign birth, when combined with a responsible and lucrative office, was in itself an offence in the eyes of many Englishmen.

II

Much of the work done in the course of diocesan administration was purely a matter of routine. An ordinary problem would be brought to the bishop's notice and he would deal with it according to rules which were well known to every member of his household. Letters dealing with matters of this kind were not usually copied in full into the register but were entered in the form of brief memoranda, containing the names of the persons concerned, dates and a note of the bishop's decision. The registrar must have kept, either in a separate book or at the beginning of the register, a set of formulae which he used as models for the letters which were actually sent out, and which he gave to his clerks to copy. Since the early memoranda of Sutton's episcopate are lost, we do not know whether the first letter of each kind was, in fact, copied in full into the register itself. The register of Archbishop Romeyn of York is prefaced by an index-calendar of such of its contents as would be useful for common formulae, and since Romeyn had held the prebend of Nassington in Sutton's diocese before he became Archbishop in 1286¹ it is quite likely that this calendar was copied from one which already existed in Sutton's register. John de Scalleby seems to have been a particularly efficient and enterprising registrar, who would have taken care to keep his formulae in an accessible place.

Routine business of the diocese included the appointment of commissaries for cases which were not of especial difficulty or importance, the granting of dispensations to permit men to be ordained although they were bastards, the issue of letters dimissory and of licences for the holding of assizes during Advent and Lent (necessary since the taking of an oath at these seasons required the sanction of the bishop), of sequestrations or orders for the safe-keeping of ecclesiastical property (usually made when an incumbent had died or was incapable of looking after his own affairs), of licences to parish priests to absent themselves from their

¹ See A. Hamilton Thompson in *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* (1934), p. 249.

benefices for the purpose of study, of indulgences and of testimonials.

Commissaries were appointed *ad hoc* to preside over lawsuits which would normally come into the bishop's court—such cases, for example, as disputes over tithes,¹ litigation about wills² or the petitions of married people for judicial separation.³ They also dealt with the granting of probate of wills in all cases where the property involved was extensive or lay in more than one arch-deaconry,⁴ and they were sometimes appointed to act for the bishop in such duties as the visitation of a religious house.⁵ The Bishops of Lincoln had, by special dispensation from the pope,⁶ the right to appoint commissaries to reconcile desecrated churches and churchyards,⁷ although generally such a ceremony could be performed only by a bishop.

For special dispensations, such as permission to marry within the prohibited degrees of kinship, application had to be made to the pope, but bishops had authority to grant certain dispensations which were commonly required. Foremost among these was the licence needed by a bastard who wished to receive holy orders, and the granting of this grace seems to have been a matter of pure formality provided that the candidate himself was a man of good repute. Dispensations were also given to men who had been ordained in another diocese without first obtaining letters dimissory, or who had neglected to obtain a proper title for ordination. Letters dimissory were frequently issued; they were, of course, needed by every man born in the diocese who had reason to be ordained by some other bishop, and they provided a general testimonial to the character of their recipient and to his fitness for the clerical life. Licences for the holding of assizes⁸ were issued to the King's justices in respect only of civil cases, usually assizes of novel disseisin, mort d'ancestor and darrein presentment. Each individual case needed a separate licence and the letter contained a clause stipulating that no precedent might be claimed. Leave of absence for study was readily granted, but if the recipient held a cure of souls he was bound to make provision, at his own expense, for the spiritual needs of his parishioners.

Sutton issued a large number of indulgences and ratified many which had been granted by other bishops. Since there is still, in the minds of some people, a certain amount of confusion as to how the system of indulgences worked, a brief explanation may be useful. An indulgence was a grant in virtue of which a specified period of penance (usually ten, twenty, thirty or forty days) might be commuted for certain services of prayer or almsgiving. It did not claim to remit sin, but to offer an alternative

¹ Register, f. 120v.

⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 5, p. 21.

⁷ Register, f. 61.

² *Ibid.*, f. 141.

⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 174.

⁸ In Advent and Lent.

³ *Ibid.*, f. 53.

⁶ See below, p. 178.

See above, p. xxxiv.

method of working out the penances which were imposed as a result of sin, and it was available only to those who had confessed, shown 'contrition' or genuine and heartfelt repentance, and had made practical restitution for their sins so far as they could. If a person wished the bishop to issue an indulgence to those who would pray for the souls of his dead kinsmen or friends, he presumably paid the expenses involved in the copying and distribution of the document, and the number of days' indulgence which were offered may have depended upon the price which he paid, but we have no direct evidence bearing upon either of these points. The practice of making such grants might be open to abuse, but it was at least as reasonable as the system, which still exists in English law-courts of imposing a fine as an alternative to a period of imprisonment, and Sutton, like his contemporaries, clearly saw no harm in it. The majority of indulgences were offered to those who would devoutly say a *Pater Noster* and an *Ave Maria* for the souls of certain specified people who had lately died, and for all the faithful departed.¹ Sutton himself granted an indulgence of forty days to all who would thus pray for the soul of his brother Stephen,² and it was regarded as an act of filial piety to obtain an indulgence on behalf of one's parents. For a society which believed firmly in the Communion of Saints a man's duty to his friends was not ended by their death, and the faithful departed, in their journey through purgatory, stood more than ever in need of prayer. The wealthy could afford to found chantries for perpetual intercession,³ but such establishments were beyond the means of a poor man. An indulgence inviting the charitable intercession of the faithful was easy to obtain and probably did not cost much. Its benefits were not confined to the departed souls, for it must have been a source of great comfort to the bereaved.

Indulgences, however, were not confined only to those who would perform the service of praying for the dead. Some were the forerunners of the modern flag-day or charitable appeal, and the remission of a period of penance was frequently offered to those who would give financial support to such good causes as the repair of a bridge⁴ or a causeway,⁵ the rebuilding of a ruined church⁶ or the extension of Lincoln cathedral,⁷ or who would visit newly-consecrated altars or chapels and make offerings there,⁸ or give alms to lepers⁹ and to those engaged in caring for the poor.¹⁰ The indulgence offered by the pope to those who would make special contributions to the funds for the crusade was reasonable enough, although the terms in which it was expressed seem rather bleakly practical—'Let people be induced to give a suitable offering according to their means, because the more they give, the greater

¹ Register, f. 95.² *Ibid.*, f. 21, p. 85.³ *Ibid.*, f. 49v-f. 51, pp. 201-6.⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 120v.⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 137.⁶ *Ibid.*, f. 86v. ⁷ *Ibid.*, f. 178.⁸ *Ibid.*, f. 4, p. 15.⁹ *Ibid.*, f. 25v, p. 106.¹⁰ *Ibid.*, f. 32v-f. 33, p. 133.

will be their indulgence'.¹ This strict relating of grace to payment probably appears much more crude to us than it did to the people of the thirteenth century. The principle of commuting punishment for payment, 'buying oneself free from stripes', was an ancient one in English common law and underlay the primitive idea of the '*wergild*' or blood-price. There is no reason to think that anyone was shocked to find the Church applying such a principle in the field of canon law.

Testimonials, other than those given in letters dimissory, were usually copied in full by the registrar because it was difficult to word them according to an exact common formula. The bishop might be asked to testify to almost anything—good conduct,² proper ordination,³ the validity of a marriage,⁴ legitimate birth,⁵ sanity,⁶ absolution from a sentence of excommunication,⁷ the good faith of a convert from Jewry⁸ or the fact that executors had performed their duties properly.⁹ He obtained the information on which he based his testimonial either from a responsible member of the clergy such as an archdeacon or a rural dean, or from a sworn body of trustworthy neighbours who could swear to such facts as the celebration of a particular marriage, according to custom, at the church door. Testimonials to marriages and to legitimacy of birth were frequently required by the lay courts in order to establish a claim to sue for dower or inheritance, and the Church was the only authority which could guarantee that in such matters the canon law had been fully obeyed. A bishop's testimonial was accepted unhesitatingly for most purposes, although in the matter of legitimacy the Church was somewhat more generous than the lay courts, which would not accept the principle of the legitimation of the offspring by a subsequent marriage of their parents. There is only one piece of evidence in Sutton's register to suggest that an episcopal testimonial to a man's character was ever called in question, and the offending bishop was not Sutton. The Bishop of Chichester had supported a young clerk named Walter of Maidstone, who turned out to be thoroughly bad. Sutton wrote to make enquiries. The Bishop of Chichester replied that he was extremely sorry that he had been misled through the intervention of powerful friends on Walter's behalf and by a long story concocted by the man himself, 'wherefore, God knows, we have grieved and still do so'.¹⁰ Such lapses were not common, and Walter seems to have been a plausible young man.

The chief responsibility which fell upon a bishop was the maintenance of good order and discipline among the clergy and laity of his diocese. He had to seek out sin and fight it. A

¹ Register, f. 39, p. 158.

⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 44^v, p. 181.

⁷ *Ibid.*, f. 152^v.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, f. 97^v-f. 98.

² *Ibid.*, f. 192^v.

⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 186.

⁸ *Ibid.*, f. 62^v.

³ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*, f. 155^v.

⁹ *Ibid.*, f. 123^v.

conscientious bishop must always have found this very difficult, although there is no evidence to suggest that England in the thirteenth century was a particularly immoral or unruly place, while the traditions of ecclesiastical discipline in the see of Lincoln, set far away from frontier wars and established by such men as Remigius, S. Hugh and Robert Grosseteste, were unusually high. There were of course plenty of sinners and no lack of fools in the diocese over which Sutton ruled, but their misdeeds were certainly no worse than those of their descendants in the twentieth century. The bishop's problem was not caused by the fact that the times were very evil. It was rather the undying problem of the relation between the Church and mankind, a problem which had arisen when the first Christian teachers became fishers of men, rejecting the easy rule over a small company of saints and drawing into their nets a catch of average human sinners. As bishop, Sutton stood for a religion with absolute standards and unlimited demands—'be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in Heaven is perfect'.¹ In the light of that commandment every human action, even the act of worship itself, is seen to be base. The priests and ministers of the thirteenth century church, Sutton among them, were generally good men according to human conceptions of goodness, but they were of necessity drawn from the common run of mankind, sinful, fallible and careless. The Church could not miraculously escape from either the effects of original sin or those of historical environment, and she has therefore lain open, in every generation, to the charge that she is betraying her trust. This accusation is true, in so far as the ideals of Christian morality are absolute. It is not true that, taken as a whole, the clergy of England in the thirteenth century were notably self-seeking, worldly or cynical. A few were really bad, but in general they were good men, better than the laity whom they had to guide. They were, however, the products of contemporary society, sharing in its sins and failings even if a religious discipline enabled most of them to rise above its grosser vices. As for the laity, they were very like their descendants today, except for the fact that most people who lived in the thirteenth century attended their parish church regularly and had some training in the simpler forms of religious belief and practice. They were not necessarily more virtuous or more devout than we are, as they were not necessarily more superstitious. In some ways, however, their superstitions took forms different from those which prevail among us. There is no evidence of heresy among the inhabitants of Sutton's diocese, but Grosseteste's determined attack upon superstitious practices² had not deterred them from worshipping holy wells,³ accepting

¹ S. Matthew, V, 48.

² *Epistolae*, ed. H. R. Luard (R.S.), pp. 72-3, 118-9, 317-8.

³ Register, f. 8v, p. 37, and f. 205.

as genuine spurious miracles which were sufficiently spectacular,¹ and possibly from practising in secret some form of pagan cult—an idea which is suggested by the wording of the sentence of excommunication pronounced upon those who killed deer at Pinchbeck upon the eve of Easter, ‘in scorn of the saving and living Victim, and showing no reverence to that holy season, they offered an abominable sacrifice to the devil in the blood of beasts, whereby a great scandal is said to have been caused in the aforesaid district’.² Sutton’s vehement language suggests, though it does not necessarily imply, the performance of some heathenish rite. He may not have meant more than to say that the poachers were guilty of extreme irreverence in profaning a holy season.

Atheism and scepticism were exceedingly rare in medieval England. The doctrines of Christianity were accepted as a matter of course, although people generally failed, as they have always done, to put them into practice. The authority of the Church was, at least in theory, respected, and people believed in the validity of canon law although they often broke it. A profound and sincere conviction that the pope was Christ’s vicar could go hand in hand with a stubborn determination to resist the financial demands brought by papal nuncios and to blacken the reputations of all foreign clergy whom the pope might provide to benefices. In the same way, people could accept without question the teaching of their parish priest and then behave with ferocious brutality towards the man himself if they happened to dislike him. Attacks on the clergy, ranging in severity from murder³ to obscene practical jokes,⁴ took place on sixty-two occasions during the last nine-and-a-half years of Sutton’s episcopate. Serious injury was fairly uncommon and the assaults were often quite unpremeditated, if one may judge by the curious weapons, ranging from a book-rest⁵ to an earthenware pot,⁶ with which some of the assailants committed their crimes. Sometimes the attacks were made by men who were themselves in orders.⁷ It is only fair to remember that at this time the term ‘cleric’ covered a wide variety of people, including scholars at the university, acolytes, sacristans, door-keepers of churches and the minor officials employed in the archdeacons’ courts. Some of the injured clergy, such as the clerk at Boston who dressed himself in striped and variegated garments and mingled with riotous company,⁸ or the incumbent who had to flee into sanctuary because he was suspected of manslaughter,⁹ had doubtless asked for trouble and could scarcely complain when they found it. More serious, from the point of view of religious discipline, were the violations of sanctuary which took place from time to time. Any bloodshed, however trivial, would of course suffice to desecrate

¹ Register, f. 138^v–f. 139.

² *Ibid.*, f. 55.

³ *Ibid.*, f. 154^v.

⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 71^v.

⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 111–111^v.

⁶ *Ibid.*, f. 31, p. 126.

⁷ *Ibid.*, f. 208.

⁸ *Ibid.*, f. 169.

⁹ *Ibid.*, f. 42^v, p. 172.

a church—a blow on the nose, given in a moment of exasperation, might involve the parish in the trouble and expense of getting the church re-consecrated—but some churches suffered violence which was really brutal and savage. The story of the dispute over the prebend of Thame provides an example of this kind of ferocity. On September 11, 1292, Sutton collated to the prebend his relative, Master Thomas of Sutton,¹ who had already acquired a dispensation to hold in plurality.² The collation was disputed by Edward S. John, a clerk of the King, who claimed the prebend in virtue of a papal provision which Sutton declared to be invalid because it had been obtained by dishonest means.³ By the beginning of November S. John's supporters had seized the church, and Sutton on November 17 ordered a sentence of excommunication to be pronounced upon them in all the churches in the city of Oxford, throughout the rural deanery of Cuddesdon, and, if possible, in Thame itself.⁴ Either at the time when the church was seized or in the subsequent scuffles one of St. John's followers, a man named Peter of Wyresdale, was killed.⁵ Despite the sentence of excommunication S. John's party remained in possession of the church, for in March 1293 Sutton sent two appeals to the King for help in turning them out.⁶ During the next few months Master Thomas appears to have recovered possession of the church and rectory, but his position was most insecure. On August 8 a band of S. John's followers, some two hundred strong, entered the churchyard, overpowered the men who had been set to guard the church door, piled timber in the porch and set fire to it, and prised out stones from the walls in order to fire arrows at the supporters of Master Thomas who were inside the building. Finding that they met with little resistance the assailants then broke in, beating and wounding two clerks in the process, and although the church was by this time splashed with blood and therefore desecrated, they caused one of their number, a priest named John of Shirburn, to celebrate Mass there and then, in an attempt to establish S. John's claim to the prebend.⁷ Sutton promptly excommunicated everyone concerned in this attack, but his action merely provoked fresh outrages. In an attempt to prevent the sentence from being published, S. John's followers broke into the neighbouring church of Long Crendon during Matins and dragged out the officiating clergy, beating and injuring them.⁸ Others were attacked in the monastery of Notley, pricked with knives and swords, and derisively deprived of their hoods and the sleeves of their garments.⁹ S. John's party continued to occupy the church for six months in spite of all that the bishop, with strong local support, could do. In the

¹ Not the Dominican theologian of that name. This Master Thomas was Archdeacon of Northampton.

² Register, f. 48^v, p. 197.

³ C.P.R. 21 Ed. I, m. 224.

⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 82.

⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 63^v-f. 64.

⁶ Register, f. 68^v-f. 69.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.*, f. 78^v-f. 79.

spring of 1294 they brought a suit against the two Suttons in the Court of King's Bench, claiming that at their instigation the people of Thame had blockaded the church from January 26 to February 6 and nearly succeeded in starving its occupants to death.¹ The bishop and Master Thomas refused to accept any responsibility for this blockade, and the men who had actually taken part in it declared that they had been doing no more than their duty in preventing criminals from breaking out of sanctuary.² Eventually S. John failed to establish his claims, for in October 1294 the case was adjourned *sine die*,³ the prebendal church and lands (which had been taken over by the sheriff at the King's command) were restored to Master Thomas,⁴ and a general pardon was issued to all who had been concerned in the killing of Peter of Wyresdale.⁵ This was not, however, the end of the ecclesiastical consequences of the affair, since a number of people still remained under sentence of excommunication for their share in it, and the last did not submit until 1297.⁶

Throughout the troubles at Thame Sutton's actions appear to have been justified both by canon and common law. Whether he acted wisely in collating to the prebend one of his own relations who was proposing to hold it in plurality is another matter. It is clear from the names of the persons involved that both parties to the dispute had strong local support.

Spectacular as it was, the attack on Thame was not an isolated instance of lawlessness. The church of Gosberton in Lincolnshire was brutally attacked by its own patron.⁷ At Claybrooke certain people 'making no distinction between things sacred and profane' broke into the church and 'craftily set up in the belfry a certain structure and hostile machine for the purpose of defence, as if the place were a castle'.⁸ (The machine was probably a catapult or ballista.) Thefts from churches were fairly common, the articles stolen ranging from charters stored in the church for safe-keeping⁹ to the candles which stood around a dead man's coffin.¹⁰ At S. Giles's, Oxford, a man accused of felony was dragged out of sanctuary and half killed in the process.¹¹ The desecration of churches and churchyards by bloodshed, often of quite a trivial kind but sometimes involving murder or serious injury, occurred so frequently that the bishop could not find time to perform all the services of reconciliation himself or even by means of suffragans. He therefore obtained a papal dispensation, renewed every five years, by which he was empowered to appoint for the purpose commissaries not of episcopal status, provided that in the aspersion of the church they used holy water which the bishop himself had blessed.¹²

¹ Selden Soc., vol. 58, pp. 11-18.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 17.

⁵ C.P.R., 22 Ed. I, m. 6.

⁷ *Ibid.*, f. 136.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, f. 182.

⁸ *Ibid.*, f. 131-131v.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, f. 101.

² *Ibid.*

⁴ C.C.R., 22 Ed. I, m. 8.

⁶ Register, f. 169.

⁹ *Ibid.*, f. 156v.

¹² *Ibid.*, f. 44, p. 178.

Faced with such evidence as this, we are bound to accept the fact that the Church in the thirteenth century was essentially a Church Militant. She could not afford to relax her vigilance, for the devil was busy, and her garrisons in cathedral, abbey and parish were posted in the midst of great dangers, within as much as without. Yet it would be wrong to assume widespread anti-clericalism or to suppose that the people who committed brutal acts of sacrilege were altogether typical of their fellow-countrymen. Over against them we must set the sensitive conscience of a man like Thomas of Codicote, who was so much horrified when he felt himself rejoice at the hanging of some men who had murdered his brother-in-law (in the course of burgling his house) that he appealed to the pope for absolution from the sentence of excommunication, or at least of suspension from ministering in holy orders, which he felt sure that he must have incurred.¹ Moreover, the canon law was sometimes too strict for human nature. When the arch-deacon and precentor of the Irish see of Ferns attended lectures on civil law at Oxford without a dispensation, when they should have been studying theology, they found themselves excommunicated,² and the same penalty fell upon people who failed to return borrowed books.³ The great majority of the inhabitants of the diocese never found their way into the register of Bishop Sutton either for good or evil. They were reasonable, orderly people, living decent and uneventful lives much like those of their descendants today. They doubtless committed their fair share of sins and follies, but they were not wholly lacking in moral sense, and they were prepared, in general, to accept the Church's right to impose discipline upon them.

Although Sutton was constantly busied with the task of visiting his diocese, no extensive collection of his visitation records has been preserved. That such records existed we know from Scalleby's reference to the roll which was accidentally burnt,⁴ from a small fragment which still survives at Lincoln⁵ and from a memorandum, preserved in the Spalding Cartulary, of a visitation carried out in the rural deanery of Holland in 1282.⁶ Visitation records were not of such lasting importance as registers, and were therefore apt to be preserved with less care. In general, Sutton's '*comperta et detecta*' have survived only if they happened to be mentioned in one of his letters, or if the trouble were so serious that Scalleby wrote a memorandum upon the subject and copied it into the register. In 1290, for example, when Sutton went to visit Tickford Priory, he found the house in a state of turmoil. The prior was willing to submit to the visitation, but three recalcitrant monks

¹ Register, f. 47-47v, p. 191.

² *Ibid.*, f. 121v.

³ *Ibid.*, f. 49v, p. 200.

⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 135v.

⁵ Visitation of Wellow Abbey 1287, now preserved in L.D.R.O.

⁶ Brit. Mus. Add. MS. 35296, f. 288.

denied the bishop's right of entry and refused to come into the chapter-house for examination. After issuing a warning, Sutton ordered Scalleby to excommunicate them upon the spot.¹ This visitation was recorded in the register in some detail because the circumstances were exceptional.

In general the disciplinary rulings in the register deal with problems which were brought before the bishop in one of three ways, by general rumour (probably reported by the archdeacon, his official or the rural dean), personal complaint or complaint made by letter. Major crimes such as serious attacks on churches and the clergy, murders and other scandalous misdeeds were normally the subject of general rumour; such words as '*clamor lugubris ad nos nuper ascendit*'² or '*auribus nostris nuper insonuit*'³ are typical of the phrases used in the register to describe the way in which these scandals were reported. Private wrongs or less serious injuries to the Church, such as failure to pay tithe, were generally brought before the bishop in person or by letter. The frequent use of the phrase '*ex relatione querelosa*' or '*lachrymosa*' suggests that the injured party came and poured out his wrongs in person, as did the aggrieved canon of Markby, 'somewhat troubled by scruples of conscience', whose prior had apparently bullied him into a false confession that he had erased certain words in a papal bull.⁴ Other complaints, such as that of the Abbess of Elstow that certain sons of iniquity were stealing her tithes,⁵ were made by letter. The bearer was usually given authority to explain points which might be obscure.

The chief canonical sanction against evil-doers was the sentence of excommunication. Three warnings were given on three successive Sundays or feast-days, unless the crime were a particularly serious one, in which case the sinner might be excommunicated at once. If he did not repent and make restitution during the period of grace afforded by the three warnings, the delinquent was excommunicated, and the archdeacon, his official or the rural dean was made responsible for seeing that the sentence was pronounced at Mass on the three following Sundays with all proper solemnity. There is evidence to show that by the thirteenth century this sentence was beginning to lose some of its terrors; it had probably been used too frequently and imposed for comparatively trivial offences. While the devout (who would in any case rarely incur excommunication) were horrified to find themselves under the ban of the Church, the careless or the habitually criminal merely found the sentence inconvenient and disregarded it so far as they could. A large number of excommunicated people, among them a disorderly priest⁶ and a number of rectors and vicars who objected to paying subsidies to the King,⁷ remained obdurate for more than

¹ Register, f. 2, p. 6.

² *Ibid.*, f. 190.

³ *Ibid.*, f. 131.

⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 137^v-f. 138.

⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 132^v.

⁶ *Ibid.*, f. 134^v.

⁷ *Ibid.*, f. 140.

the forty days allowed by canon law for repentance and had to be coerced by the mundane penalty of imprisonment. (Letters addressed to the King, asking him to direct his sheriffs to arrest such obstinate sinners, were recorded in Sutton's register on fifty-three occasions.) The Archdeacon of Oxford reported that one man had remained under sentence of excommunication for more than three years without showing the least sign of repentance.¹ It is obvious that many of the people who were involved in general sentences of excommunication and whose names were unknown did not, in fact, acknowledge their crimes and presumably continued to go to Mass after making incomplete confessions to their parish priests. Some named excommunicates simply moved into another diocese, hoping to escape detection.² Others seem to have hidden themselves under assumed names. Eve of Beverley, for example, who was accused of fornication, passed under the names of Alice of Beverley and Alice Long of Gringley.³ Concealment must have been made easier by the fact that the use of surnames was, at this time, still somewhat erratic.

When a person who had been excommunicated sought absolution he would, if he had been guilty of violence towards a priest, find himself bound to go to the papal curia in order to obtain it. Sutton enforced this rule strictly, although he allowed the pilgrimage to be deferred in time of war with France when the journey would have been unsafe.⁴ When the crusade for the recovery of Acre was being planned, people might be sent to the Holy Land instead of to Rome, or allowed to send a paid soldier instead. This penance was clearly intended to help the crusading forces, but in practice it does not seem to have made much contribution towards them; Peter of Milham, for example, who incurred excommunication for striking a chaplain, was told that if he did not go on the crusade himself he must either provide a substitute or pay to the crusading funds 'two shillings, or more if he can afford it'.⁵ The regular journey to Rome was a much more serious and expensive affair than this, but dangerous as it might be, it gave an opportunity for seeing the world and many penitents probably found it thoroughly enjoyable.

Those who had committed less serious faults received suitable penances at the discretion of the bishop. Sutton's discipline was firm, but he often tempered it with considerable humour and common-sense. A young clerk who had assaulted one of his fellows by hitting him with a stick in the churchyard was to expiate his fault on the three following Sundays by standing at the chancel steps intoning psalms, 'as many as he can, while Mass is going on'.⁶ Those who had made an armed attack upon a church were

¹ Cambridge MS. Dd. 6, f. 22.

³ *Ibid.*, f. 12^v, p. 57.

⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 103.

² Register, f. 177^v-178.

⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 161.

⁶ *Ibid.*, f. 178^v-f. 179.

ordered to appear in the same church in the sight of all the congregation, carrying 'all the weapons and other things which they had used in their intrusion into the said church, either for arming their bodies or constructing siege-engines or in any other way'. They were to display the weapons to the parish priest, and then take them to Lincoln and carry them on foot to the cathedral, where the penance was to be repeated.¹ One of the principal transgressors on this occasion had been Sir Ranulph de Rye, the church's own patron. After long delays (the result, as he said, of his feudal obligations) he came to the bishop and made his apologies in person, asking quite frankly for some mitigation of that part of the penance which he would have to perform in public. Sutton appears to have agreed that so public an exhibition would be an affront to the dignity of knighthood, and that it was undesirable to hold up the patron of a church, however bad he might be, to the open derision of the parishioners. He therefore said that Sir Ranulph need not stand with the other penitents at the door of his own church, and excused him from the outdoor procession at Lincoln. Once inside the cathedral he was to join the penitential procession, but he might if he wished have 'some squire or boy to carry before him the arms which he had used in the aforesaid assault' instead of carrying them himself.² The story illustrates the very reasonable desire of the clergy not to bring respectable persons, on whom much of the work of local administration depended, into situations in which they would become the target of public scorn. In the same way, transgressing clergy were spared the more humiliating forms of public penance, and were not beaten, even if very young, in the presence of laymen.

Ordinary laymen who violated the rights of the church often received savage penances, which were reasonable in view of the fact that churches stood open to all and were defended only by their sanctity. When a party of men dragged a fugitive named Nigel of Hargrave out of the church of S. Giles in Oxford, wounding him seriously in the process, they received absolution only at the cost of six beatings (three in the church which they had desecrated and three in Oxford market-place) and in addition they had to pay the cost of three Masses, to settle the bills of Nigel's doctor, and to visit the wounded man regularly as long as he remained in prison.³ (These visits, although possibly salutary, must have been exceedingly embarrassing for everyone concerned.) Later one of the delinquents was excused from two of the beatings in the market-place provided that he suffered cheerfully (*benigne*) upon the first occasion, and another, who claimed clerical privilege, was given a less humiliating penance.⁴ Sutton had, in general, a humane desire to avoid pointless suffering. When Agnes Cross

¹ Register, f. 133^v.

² *Ibid.*, f. 154^v.

³ *Ibid.*, f. 103-103^v.

⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 104.

of Empingham rashly made a vow that she would fast every Saturday for two years upon bread and water, and then found that her health was breaking down under the strain of her self-imposed penance, the bishop ordered her to commute it for 'some other good work which she is able to endure'.¹

Certain kinds of evil-doers were included in a general sentence of excommunication which was published in every diocese at regular intervals. The Council of Oxford in 1222 had decreed that throughout each diocese there should be held three or four times a year ceremonies in which a general sentence of excommunication was pronounced upon all those who wantonly disturbed the peace and tranquillity of the realm. Under this heading were included thieves, perjurers, fornicators, incendiaries and those who maliciously prevented the reasonable bequests of testators from being put into effect.² The constitutions of Otto in 1237 extended the scope of the sentence to include those who knowingly harboured thieves 'of whom there are very many in the kingdom of England'.³ Ottobono in 1268⁴ and Archbishop Pecham in 1279⁵ and again in 1281⁶ had renewed these injunctions and extended the scope of their application. Sutton accepted this system of general application as a matter of course,⁷ pointing out on one occasion, when he denounced some people who had stolen goods from a paralysed man, that they were in any case involved in the ban decreed by the Council of Oxford against 'the more atrocious thieves'.⁸ The register contains one clear and interesting description of the publishing of a general excommunication in 1297. The sentence was on this occasion directed against those who attempted to tax the clergy in despite of the bull *Clericis Laicos*, but the procedure was much the same as that used in the case of ordinary law-breakers. After the reading of the Gospel at Mass the bishop preached a sermon, using the English language in order that the laymen in his audience should have no excuse for misunderstanding him, and explained that the clergy were bound by the responsibilities of their office to warn sinners of the consequences of their misdeeds. He quoted the words of Ezekiel 'When I say to the wicked "Thou shalt surely die"', and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity, but thou hast delivered thy soul'.⁹ He then went straight on to pronounce the sentence upon all who should defy the papal commands.¹⁰

¹ Register, f. 175.

² Wilkins, *Concilia* I, p. 585.

³ *Ibid.* I, p. 653.

⁴ *Ibid.* II, p. 2.

⁵ *Ibid.* II, p. 33.

⁶ *Ibid.* II, p. 56.

⁷ Register, f. 60v.

⁸ *Ibid.*, f. 53.

⁹ Ezekiel III, 18-19.

¹⁰ Register, f. 166-166v.

Apart from this system of general excommunication, which in the thirteenth century became a regular part of canon law, there seems to have existed in the diocese of Lincoln a custom¹ by which any individual who had suffered a private wrong at the hands of persons who were unknown to him, and whom he therefore could not sue in the courts of common law, might appeal to the bishop and have them excommunicated. The crimes mentioned in this connection are ordinary offences against the common law of England, which would have been tried in the lay courts had the plaintiff been able to bring a charge against a specific person. They were not, as a rule, crimes committed against clergy, although clerics could, and at times did, invoke the custom in reply to thefts of their temporal property, nor were they, in the ordinary sense, breaches of the canon law, although they involved breaking the Ten Commandments and therefore an infringement of the *ius naturale*. They included the theft, from laymen, of swans,² rabbits³ and timber,⁴ the pilfering of building material from a pile set aside for the repair of Huntingdon bridge,⁵ and the malicious killing of a poor crofter's oxen.⁶ Bishop Dalderby on one occasion was asked to excommunicate all those persons concerned in failing to return a falcon which Sir Gerard Salvayn had lost when he was out hawking.⁷ It is clear from the formulae used in mandates for excommunication issued in cases of this kind that a detailed complaint had to be lodged with the bishop before the sentence could be pronounced. Adam and Emmicena of Holland, who had lost their oxen, 'humbly beg that a suitable remedy may be provided for them in this matter by Holy Church, more especially because, as they say, there is no other adequate way of proceeding against hidden malefactors of this kind'.⁸ The sentence upon those who had stolen John Gregory's timber was published 'because those who do such wrongs to others and will not make amends may be bound, in general terms, in the chain of excommunication by their bishops, at the request of those who have suffered the wrong'.⁹

Although Sutton always declared that in these cases he was acting according to canon law, the practice of general excommunication for a private temporal wrong is not mentioned in the work of Gratian, the Gregorian Decretals or the Sext. It appears to have been an English custom, possibly a local one peculiar to the diocese of Lincoln, which had developed out of the system of regular excommunication of malefactors prescribed by the Council

¹ Freely used by Sutton and his successor Dalderby. See Dalderby's register, folios 16^v, 43, 49^v, 64^v, 67^v, 152, 165^v, 166^v, 170^v, 178, 192, 222^v. Since the memoranda of Sutton's predecessors are no longer extant, it is impossible to discover whether or not the practice was copied from them.

² Sutton's Register, f. 71. ³ *Ibid.*, f. 183.

⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 181^v.

⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 93-93^v.

⁶ *Ibid.*, f. 89^v-f. 90.

⁷ Dalderby's Register, f. 67^v.

⁸ Sutton's Register, f. 89^v.

⁹ *Ibid.*, f. 181^v.

of Oxford. There does not appear to be evidence of the practice in other dioceses¹; one instance occurs in the diocese of Salisbury (where the bishop, Simon de Gandavo, had been a canon of Lincoln and was a personal friend of Sutton) but since it was the bishop's own property which suffered, it is possible that this may have been an ordinary sentence pronounced upon those who infringed ecclesiastical rights.² The sentence as used by Sutton and Dalderby provided the only chance of reaching criminals to whom the law could otherwise assign no penalty because their names were not known. We have no indication as to whether or not the sentence was effective. Uneasy conscience may have caused a few secret criminals to confess, especially if they happened to fall ill, although to judge by the levity with which many named excommunicates treated the sentence their numbers would not be large. Devout laymen must have assumed that the effects of the sentence would work upon the transgressor in much the same way as the Cardinal's curse afflicted the Jackdaw of Rheims,³ and this belief would encourage those who had suffered wrong to go to the trouble of taking their grievances to the bishop.

By far the greater number of ordinary sentences of excommunication noted in Sutton's register were directed against people who assaulted the clergy (sixty-two cases), seized churches by violence (twenty-eight cases), otherwise infringed the rights and liberties of churches (thirty-two cases) or failed to pay tithe and other ecclesiastical dues, or prevented their neighbours from paying (thirty cases). Other common crimes were embezzlement,⁴ theft of articles ranging from the second volume of S. Gregory's 'Moralia'⁵ to horses⁶ or a portable altar,⁷ poaching of deer,⁸ rabbits,⁹ swans with their eggs¹⁰ and other creatures, and engaging in private brawls in consecrated places, especially churchyards.¹¹ Since the churchyard was a piece of conveniently open ground in which all the parishioners were bound to meet, squabbles broke out there frequently and were often settled by blows before the neighbours could intervene. Serious crimes in churchyards were generally caused when attempts were made to drag out forcibly felons who had taken sanctuary there. The list of sexual offences for which people were excommunicated has a depressingly familiar appearance—adultery,¹² fornication,¹³ bigamy¹⁴ and desertion of one's lawful spouse.¹⁵ Some men abducted nuns,¹⁶ but there is no proved case in which a girl was carried off from a convent against her will.

¹ Since this passage was written I have discovered similar excommunications in the Register of Archbishop Melton of York, who was prebendary of Louth from 1309 to 1317. Melton's Register, f. 140, f. 154 and f. 280.

² Simon de Gandavo, *Register*, ed. Flower and Dawes (C. and Y. Soc.) I, p. 8.

³ Barham *Ingoldsby Legends*. It is only fair to point out that the Jackdaw had broken canon law by robbing a cardinal.

⁴ Sutton's Register, f. 180v.

⁶ *Ibid.*, f. 83. ⁶ *Ibid.*, f. 202v. ⁷ *Ibid.*, f. 114. ⁸ *Ibid.*, f. 71v. ⁹ *Ibid.*, f. 183.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, f. 24–24v, p. 99.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, f. 5, p. 19, and f. 147v. ¹² *Ibid.*, f. 181.

¹³ *Ibid.*, f. 11v, p. 51.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 207. ¹⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 181. ¹⁶ *Ibid.*, f. 5v, p. 22.

The fact that forty-nine bastards applied, during the last nine-and-a-half years of Sutton's episcopate, for dispensations to take orders suggests that the general rate of illegitimate births must have been high,¹ in spite of the Church's constant denunciation of the sins of the flesh. Usually both parents were unmarried, but occasionally the father was a married man, as was that John of Heyford who debauched a nun at Harrold.² A few bastards were the children of clergy in major orders, but it must be remembered that in England the priest's *focaria* was always more kindly regarded by public opinion than she was by canon law, and that such a union, although irregular, often had the merit of being faithful and monogamous. A few ladies of ill repute, including some who were in trouble at Oxford, seem to have been professional prostitutes. A company of the members of this profession, showing considerable enterprise, came from London and tried to combine business with the pleasures of a holiday near the sea-side by renting a house in Boston for the duration of the fair.³

Among the less ordinary crimes there was one case of arson,⁴ one of attempted suicide,⁵ one of body-snatching⁶ (in order to bury the body in another churchyard), and one of substituting a baby.⁷ This last was considered to be particularly heinous, not because it was an attempt to gain property by fraudulent means but because it involved a double christening.

Although mandates for excommunication appear in large numbers in the register, the people who were excommunicated formed a very small proportion of the inhabitants of the diocese. Savage, lawless and immoral deeds were committed, much as they are today, but such crimes were recorded in the register, as they are today reported in the newspaper, not because they were ordinary but precisely because they were not. Neighbours were apt to feel sympathy towards the man who committed a mild assault upon an exasperating clerk or who was not always exact in his payment of tithe, but there is no evidence that they generally condoned serious offences. On the contrary, to judge by the register, they were apt to be 'vehemently scandalised' and to rush to the bishop with agitated complaints. The criminal was unpopular and the excommunicated person, if his name were known, was generally avoided.

Other business normally carried out by the bishop in his diocese included the issuing of *littere questuarie*, the granting of permission to establish a private chapel or a chantry for the commemoration of the faithful departed, and the making of arrangements for special days of prayer or thanksgiving, usually at the request of

¹ As it still is, rising in some places to seven per cent. of the recorded births. In this, as in other matters, we are scarcely entitled to cast stones at our ancestors.

² Register, f. 183^v.

³ *Ibid.*, f. 27^v, p. 112.

⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 188^v.

⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 164^v.

⁶ *Ibid.*, f. 203.

⁷ *Ibid.*, f. 134^v-f. 135.

the King. *Littere questuarie* were letters of credence given by the bishop to people who came into the diocese with lawful authority to collect money for pious or charitable causes. The letters could be withdrawn if the collectors appeared to be acting suspiciously. They were addressed to the diocesan clergy, and ordered them to explain the good cause to the congregation assembled at Mass on Sundays, introduce the collectors, and encourage the faithful to give liberally, usually with the provision that their generosity must not be so excessive as to prevent them from making proper contributions to the building-fund of the cathedral.¹

The right to establish a private chapel was frequently sought by people who lived in isolated manor-houses far from the parish church,² by those who combined extreme devoutness with persistent ill-health,³ and by the colleges⁴ and private halls of residence⁵ in Oxford. Roads in winter were apt to be reduced by mud and flood-water to a state which made it difficult for people to go far to church, although the difficulties of travelling seem never to have had much effect upon the movements of Sutton himself. Many of the inhabitants of his diocese were less vigorous, or less courageous, than he was. Hugh de Bibbworth lived only half-a-mile from his parish church of Kimpton in Huntingdonshire, but he complained that the intervening road was 'covered with hillocks and mud, with much of it under water' during the winter season, and that it was altogether too much for the strength of his wife when she was with child.⁶ The family of Sir John d'Oily, who lived at Long Whatton in Leicestershire, wanted a chapel because they could not reach their parish church without 'great expense and exhaustion'.⁷ Sir John Ridel who was 'greatly vexed by the gout'⁸ and John de Bridesthorn who was more than sixty years of age and involved in much secular business⁹ were allowed to have chapels, as was Walter of Molesworth, who found it difficult to provide for the transport of his womenfolk to church, since his mother was old and frail and his wife exceedingly fat ('*carnis sarcina plurimum onerata*').¹⁰ The scholars of Balliol College at Oxford applied for a chapel and were allowed to have it.¹¹ They could hardly complain that their house was impossibly remote from the parish church, but Sutton, who had taught at Oxford himself, was favourable to any plan which might give more time for study. He approved of Balliol, a college from which, as he said, 'many have gone forth distinguished for virtue and knowledge, and have borne much fruit in religion and elsewhere',¹² and he therefore sanctioned the establishment of the chapel provided that every member of the community attended his parish church on

¹ Register, f. 13^v-f. 14, pp. 61-2. ² *Ibid.*, f. 10^v, p. 47.

⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 73.

⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 65^v.

³ *Ibid.*, f. 136^v.

⁶ *Ibid.*, f. 91^v.

⁷ *Ibid.*, f. 84.

⁸ *Ibid.*, f. 166.

⁹ *Ibid.*, f. 89.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, f. 63^v.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, f. 73.

¹² *Ibid.*, f. 75^v.

Sundays and feast-days. This the Balliol men failed to do ; in fact they not only neglected the parish church but instituted in their chapel a kind of university service to which other scholars came in great numbers. The parish priests of Oxford began to complain that their congregations were dwindling, to the lamentable diminution of the offerings, and Sutton had to announce that he would have the chapel of Balliol closed unless the community mended its ways.¹ A private chapel could in fact be closed at any time simply by the revocation of the grant, which was made during the bishop's pleasure. The Earl of Cornwall's chapel at Hambleden in Buckinghamshire had to be shut up for a time because of the crowds of people who resorted to it after a rumour had been spread abroad that miracles of healing were performed there.² Sutton declared these miracles to be fictitious. A few months later, when the sensational reports had died down, he allowed the Earl to use the chapel again on condition that the strictest privacy was observed.³

Before a chapel could be set up, the archdeacon or his official had to inspect the building and see that it was clean and decently furnished, and the patron and incumbent of the parish church had to give their consent to the project. The chaplain was given board and lodging, with a small salary and sometimes a few perquisites, by his employer, and he took an oath to hand over to the parish priest all offerings which he might receive in the course of his ministrations. Chaplains were not allowed (except with special permission from the bishop, rarely given,) to hear confessions, to perform marriage or funeral services, or to give any sacrament, except baptism in cases of urgent need. (If a child appeared likely to die baptism must, of course, be given, even by a lay man or woman, and many children were christened by midwives. It was part of the duties of a parish priest to instruct his people in the correct formula, so that they might remember it in case of emergency.) The chaplain's functions were normally restricted to saying Mass and the canonical hours in the presence of his patron and the free-born members of the household. Moreover on the greater festivals such as Christmas and Easter all the family was bound, except in case of grave emergency, to attend the parish church. Sutton sometimes ordered the owners of chapels to go to church also when a sermon was preached there.⁴ It was usually stipulated that anyone who had a private chapel must not erect a steeple or ring a bell,⁵ in case wayfarers might be attracted to come and hear Mass in the chapel instead of going in the proper way to the parish church. Chapels, except those of colleges and halls in the university, were generally attached to private houses, but an interesting example of a chapel-of-ease, used as a sanctuary, occurs

¹ Register, f. 85v-f. 86. ² *Ibid.*, f. 138v-f. 139. ³ *Ibid.*, f. 157v-f. 158.

⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 176.

⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 158.

at Biddenham in Bedfordshire. The parish priest, Master Matthew of Dunstable, obtained permission to found a private chapel near the bridge to ensure the safety of travellers 'for whom, it is said, there are many dangers in that place through the attacks of thieves'.¹ One hopes that his faith in the religious scruples of thieves was justified.

Most of the documents dealing with chantries occur among the institution records and some have already been discussed.² A chantry did not necessarily imply the existence of a special building, although some donors did provide chapels for their chantries.³ It was essentially a perpetual endowment of prayers and intercessions for the souls of the dead, although some donors arranged for their chantry-priests to pray for them while they were still alive. The bishop's licence was needed before a chantry could be set up, and careful donors usually arranged for all the relevant documents (including the licence to alienate in mortmain and any grants of land made to the priest) to be recorded by the bishop's registrar.

Days of prayer or thanksgiving, observed alike in the cathedral and throughout the diocese, were of fairly frequent occurrence. As a rule the initiative came from the King. Edward I was a genuinely devout man in spite of the fact that he sometimes quarrelled with the Church. In his youth he had risked his life on a crusade, and had been reckoned 'the best lance in Christendom'. When his beloved wife Eleanor of Castile died, he caused crosses to be set up wherever her bier rested, and was instant with the clergy in his demand for prayers for her soul. He seems to have been honestly convinced that in his invasions of Scotland he was doing his proper duty as an overlord, and there could be no doubt that in the matter of the Gascon castles Philip IV of France had treated him very badly. It was therefore natural that Edward should ask for the Church's blessing upon his expeditions against the Scots⁴ and the French,⁵ and that he should underline the urgency of his requests by adding highly-coloured descriptions of the malice and ferocity of his enemies. Sutton was quick to respond to such appeals, and arranged for prayers and processions to take place in the cathedral and throughout the diocese. A form of intercession has survived in the register; it was drawn up at Biggleswade on August 21, 1297, the very day on which the King set forth on an expedition to Flanders.⁶ After Mass, 'when the parishioners are stirred up to prayer by the clergy with exhortations . . . they shall be required to pray for the King and those serving with him in this form'. An outline of the order of service follows, first 'O Lord, save me for Thy Name's sake' with the *Gloria Patri*,

¹ Register, f. 153.

² Register, f. 287v.

³ *Ibid.*, f. 165.

¹ L.R.S. 43, pp xv-xvii.

⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 186v-f. 187.

⁶ *Ibid.*, f. 165v. See also Rishanger (R.S.), p. 177.

Kyrie Eleison and *Pater Noster*, then the versicle and response 'O Lord, save the King', 'Send him aid from Thy holy place', and finally a special collect for the occasion :—'O Lord, the strength of them that hope in Thee and the glorious victory of them that strive, hear our prayers and grant that our King may devise with prudent mind and perform with strenuous labour only those things which are pleasing to Thy majesty, and that by Thy help and mighty governance he may bring to a prosperous end and a happy issue those things which he has undertaken to do, through Jesus Christ our Lord'.

At other times the bishop would commend to the prayers of his people the souls of famous men and women who had lately died, Eleanor the Queen-mother, 'whom death the persecutor of nature, respecting no dignity, has taken from this world',¹ Eleanor the beloved Queen-consort,² John Pecham the Archbishop of Canterbury, who was, as Prior Henry of Eastrý declared in his letter to the bishops 'a lofty tree, full of the fruits of virtues, whom God's right hand had planted in the midst of this our paradise',³ the Duke of Brabant⁴ and the Earl of Leicester.⁵ No special forms of prayer used on these occasions have been recorded in the register, but the general instructions issued to the clergy after the death of Archbishop Pecham indicate that a requiem Mass was to be followed by a prayer that God would turn the mourning of the Church into joy and 'raise up for the church of Canterbury a bridegroom after His own heart'.

III

In his travels round the diocese, the bishop gave particular attention to the welfare and good order of the parish clergy. He saw to it that they received their tithes and offerings, and used ecclesiastical censure against those who failed to pay⁶ or stole goods which an incumbent had already received,⁷ while at the same time he restrained any priest who tried to exact more than his fair share.⁸ Sometimes a rector or vicar was found to be exploiting his assistants and was sharply called to order. At Spalding in 1282 the vicar was trying to economise by employing only one clerk, despite an injunction by Bishop Gravesend that he should have two; moreover he did not allow the boys who carried the holy water to attend school regularly as they were supposed to do.⁹ Sutton ordered him to fulfil his obligations in future.

¹ Register, f. 32, p. 132.

² *Ibid.*, f. 41, p. 166.

³ *Ibid.*, f. 67. After reading this affecting letter, it is a sad disillusionment to find that Eastrý's grief was purely conventional. He and Pecham disliked one another intensely. (See D. L. Douie, *Archbishop Pecham*, pp. 189-90.)

⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 100.

⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 146-146v.

⁶ *Ibid.*, f. 13-13v, p. 59.

⁷ *Ibid.*, f. 129v.

⁸ *Ibid.*, f. 88.

⁹ Spalding Cartulary, B.M. Add. MS., 35296, f. 288.

The bishop examined the fabric of churches himself and received reports on the subject from his archdeacons. Responsibility for the repair and upkeep of a parish church was normally shared between the rector and the parish. The rector had to repair the chancel and keep in good order the books, vestments and plate, as well as providing the sacramental wine and wafers, incense, wax candles or lamps, and rushes to strew on the floor. When the church was appropriated, the bishop had to decide what proportion of these duties fell respectively to the appropriating body and the vicar. The parishioners were responsible for the repair of the nave and the belfry, and for keeping the churchyard properly fenced against stray animals and in decent order. A generous patron or a wealthy parishioner would sometimes provide extra candles, and penitents were often required to bring offerings of wax, which was expensive.¹ Trees growing in churchyards were the perquisite of the rector, who could cut them down and use the timber for structural repairs to the chancel or to his own house. This timber seems to have been a constant source of temptation to the villagers, who sometimes stole it for their own use and were excommunicated for so doing.² When serious building was undertaken, as for example when a belfry was erected at Hagworthingham, the strain upon parochial finances was very great.³ An indulgence was sometimes issued in order to encourage outsiders to contribute,⁴ or the incumbent might make an agreement with a local monastery, as at Spalding where the prior and convent, finding the proximity of the parish church disturbing, undertook to build a new one in a more convenient place. They agreed to roof the building, glaze its windows, whitewash its walls and provide two bells, on the understanding that these should not be rung while the members of the community were in their dormitory, or on Christmas Day, except in case of 'fire, flood or other grave emergency',⁵ when they could be used to sound a warning to the neighbourhood.

In addition to maintaining the chancel and the church furnishings, the incumbent (unless he were a stipendiary vicar) was responsible for keeping his house in repair and his land under cultivation. Vicarages were repaired by the appropriating body, which sometimes reserved a room in the house to use as a store-chamber. Failure to do repairs was a common fault among medieval clergy, and in the course of his travels Sutton found many dilapidated and ruinous buildings. Newly-inducted priests often complained that their houses were almost uninhabitable and their churches in a sad state of disrepair. When Master Walter of Warmington succeeded Master Robert of Filby at the church of Middleton he found that his predecessor had left 'many notable defects' in the

¹ Register, f. 3^v, p. 12.

² *Ibid.*, f. 139-139^v.

³ *Ibid.*, f. 6, p. 25.

⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 1^v, p. 4.

⁵ B.M., M.S. Add. 35296, f. 291-2.

chancel and rectory, besides neglecting to pay his taxes to the King.¹ The churches at Quadring² and Helpston³ had lost most of their furnishings, while at Berkhamstead the rector's negligence was the cause of 'various intolerable defects'.⁴ At Apley in Lincolnshire affairs were even worse; 'there are such intolerable defects in the books and furnishings of the said church that there is not one vestment which does not need mending, nor is there an adequate book for the celebration of divine service; the buildings of the priest's house have fallen down and other buildings are threatened with ruin'.⁵ When churches had sunk into this state of decay the clergy responsible were forced by threat of ecclesiastical penalties to carry out repairs. If, as frequently happened, a new rector found that his predecessor had died leaving the church in a bad state of dilapidation, the dead man's executors had to undertake the repairs as the first charge upon his estate.

When a parish priest grew old or unfit for his duties he did not normally resign his living unless he wished to enter a house of religion, nor could he be forced to retire. The bishop would appoint him a coadjutor, whose duty it was to look after the priest and his parish and to give the sacraments. Such coadjutors were sometimes young chaplains hoping to succeed to the benefice, but more often they were the incumbents of small neighbouring parishes who did double duty. They took charge of clergy who needed personal care and who were unable to do their work because of old age,⁶ blindness,⁷ paralysis,⁸ leprosy⁹ or insanity.¹⁰ Sutton was careful to appoint coadjutors who were personally acceptable to the men whose care they undertook. An aged, sick or blind man was always allowed to name his own colleague, unless he particularly asked the bishop to choose one for him, and if the two did not get on well together the appointment could be revoked and another coadjutor established. When the rector of Quadring protested that 'he would by no means consent that (Roger of Willingham) should be his coadjutor and that he would rather beg', the bishop immediately removed the offending Roger and the rector settled down.¹¹ Sutton appears to have felt a particular tenderness for those of his clergy who suffered from mental afflictions, and to have treated them with greater kindness than was common at the time. When the insane rector of Bletchington escaped from his house and wandered off in an attempt to reach his brother in France, the bishop gave orders that he should be 'sought diligently by discreet and circumspect men, brought back in honourable fashion and put into safe keeping'.¹² An immense amount of trouble was taken over the unfortunate Hugh of S. Martin, vicar

¹ Register, f. 140^v.

⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 97^v.

⁷ *Ibid.*, f. 191^v.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, f. 195.

² *Ibid.*, f. 152-152^v.

⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 67^v-f. 68.

⁸ *Ibid.*, f. 130.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, f. 144.

³ *Ibid.*, f. 158.

⁶ *Ibid.*, f. 119.

⁹ *Ibid.*, f. 82.

¹² *Ibid.*, f. 62^v.

of All Saints in Stamford, who suffered from some kind of sudden and violent mental breakdown from which he eventually recovered. Hugh had been quarrelling both with his own parishioners and with the Abbot of Peterborough during 1298, and by the end of that year it was obvious that he was out of his mind. A coadjutor was appointed for him,¹ and sentences of excommunication were published against those who had ill-used him or stolen his goods.² On January 28, 1299, the coadjutor was replaced because it was found that he had been keeping Hugh in unsuitable conditions, and the invalid was moved to the priory of S. Michael outside Stamford where Sutton arranged for the nuns to look after him.³ A fortnight later the bishop wrote to the Abbot of Peterborough, saying that he had heard that the abbot's servants had taken Hugh's goods and reduced him to such desperate straits that he had been obliged to pawn his clothes in order to buy food, and demanding redress.⁴ The abbot promised to see that the goods were returned, but he failed to give them all back, so that on April 24 Sutton had to write again asking him to make sure that none of Hugh's goods had been unjustly retained, 'taking care not to lay more afflictions upon an unhappy man than those which he suffers already'.⁵ Either the recovery of his possessions or the nursing of the nuns seems to have restored Hugh's sanity. On July 22 he was restored to his benefice, and since no coadjutor was appointed he must have been thought to be in full possession of his senses. (In a town such as Stamford, which was full of churches, it would have been easy for the neighbouring clergy to keep a friendly eye on him.) He gave a solemn promise that 'he would behave discreetly in future, and neither run about the country nor interfere in business nor allow his kinsmen to have authority over his goods as he did before, all of which things were said to have caused his aforesaid infirmity'.⁶

It was extremely rare for a man to be deprived of his living for misconduct, although people occasionally resigned because of an uneasy conscience. The rector of Kirkby Green in Lincolnshire was turned out for some unspecified crime,⁷ and Geoffrey Russell lost his church of Etton in Northamptonshire 'because he had publicly married a certain woman from Pinchbeck'.⁸ (Unfortunately nothing is known of the subsequent fate of Geoffrey and his wife.) A few pluralists were made to give up all their livings save one, unless they could obtain a papal dispensation. A delinquent priest would often be suspended and ordered to refrain from saying Mass, but if he mended his ways he would be reinstated, usually after a few months. Priests who brawled in their own churches with such violence as to draw blood from their adversaries

¹ Register, f. 192v-f. 193.

⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 196.

⁷ L.R.S. 39, p. 105.

² *Ibid.*, f. 191v-and f. 193.

⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 200.

⁸ *Ibid.* 43, p. 91.

³ *Ibid.*, f. 195.

⁶ *Ibid.*, f. 206.

had to pay the expenses of reconciliation and to perform suitably impressive penances, and there the matter ended.¹ Coadjutors, chosen by the bishop, were appointed to look after those incumbents who were causing scandal by their indiscretions, or who by reason of extravagance² or a propensity for running up debts³ appeared unable to manage their own affairs. A few parish priests were guilty of more serious offences such as fornication with a parishioner⁴ (which was classed as a form of incest because she was a 'spiritual daughter') or forgery and oath-breaking.⁵ These men were not, provided that they showed signs of penitence, deprived of their benefices, but were put under the care of coadjutors who were made responsible for them and for their parishes. This treatment may seem to be unduly lenient, but it is explained by the fact that the offender had confessed his sins, submitted himself to the bishop's judgment, and shown an apparently sincere desire to reform his ways. Sutton was acting logically, in accordance with the beliefs, generally held by him and his contemporaries, that a priest's orders were indelible and that it was no part of the church's duty to break a bruised reed. Before any man was instituted to a living he had to undergo, at the hands of the archdeacon, a thorough examination in learning and morals, and if he were then accepted as a satisfactory candidate the bishop felt bound by a permanent responsibility towards him. If Sutton had ever expected his parish clergy to lead entirely blameless lives, nineteen years spent in diocesan visitation would have left him sadly disillusioned, but being a sensible man and one who knew his own shortcomings he never expected any such thing. Priests, like other people, were liable to sin, although their sin did not diminish the efficacy of the sacraments which they dispensed, and like other people they could be restored by repentance and confession. The only really unforgivable sin was obduracy, and therefore the man who broke the canon law by marrying when in major orders and refusing to leave his wife lost his parish, while the man who committed repeated acts of adultery did not. The justice of these decisions may seem to us exceedingly odd, but it was at least based upon a perfectly clear and logical system of reasoning. It can be argued that the canon law which Sutton administered was itself based in part upon faulty premises, but his methods of administering it were in themselves quite sound.

The diocese of Lincoln, which contained some of the most prosperous and peaceful districts of England, was naturally well supplied with religious houses. Almost every notable order was represented, and one, that of the Gilbertines, had originated in Lincolnshire and the majority of its houses were still within the bounds of Sutton's diocese. The bishop's connection with his

¹ Register, f. 55v.

² *Ibid.*, f. 130.

³ *Ibid.*, f. 193.

⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 121-121v.

⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 196.

regular clergy was bound to be close. He was responsible for the systematic visitation of every religious community in his diocese unless it happened to belong to one of those orders such as the Friars and the Templars which had obtained from the pope the right of immunity from episcopal jurisdiction. Visitation was carried out according to a reasoned plan, and the bishop's arrival at a monastery or nunnery had no element of surprise for the inmates. Ideally, visitations of all religious houses should have taken place once every three years, or oftener if the affairs of the house seemed unsatisfactory. In practice this was impossible in a diocese the size of Sutton's; he contrived, however, to know what was going on in most of the religious communities under his jurisdiction.

When the bishop was about to visit a religious house he first sent warning to the abbot or prior, telling him to prepare for the visitation, and to cause every inmate of the house to appear except in case of serious illness or such lawful business as might have taken an official proctor of the community to Rome or to some other place from which he could not be recalled in time for the visitation. In the case of the cathedral chapter these injunctions were addressed to the dean. When the day of visitation arrived, Sutton came to the house and went straight to the chapel, where he preached a sermon to the assembled community. He then moved on to the chapter-house to conduct an official enquiry, in the course of which he interviewed separately every member of the community, from the head of the house to the most recently-joined novice. He also made a tour of inspection round the buildings to see whether they were in good repair, properly arranged and free from superfluous ornaments and partitions, and to rout out any stores of private property which might have accumulated in defiance of the rule. (By the thirteenth century absolute personal poverty had been abandoned in all but the strictest orders, and in some houses each member received a small regular allowance of pocket-money. Small articles for personal use, such as slippers, knives and girdles, were often presented to the religious by their friends in the world, and their acceptance does not appear to have caused scandal. The literal interpretation of the rule of poverty had always been difficult for the average monk or friar; men of the stamp of S. Francis were rare indeed. Even the saintly Bede had thought it no shame to own a little box containing pepper, napkins and incense, which he gave to his friends just before he died, and no-one thought the worse of him for possessing this little store.¹) Finally, when he had finished his investigations, the bishop reviewed the *comperta et detecta*, or official report and findings of his visit, and drew up a set of injunctions for reform which he sent to the head of the house. Letters referring to visitations appear

¹ Bede, *Historia Ecclesiastica*, ed. Plummer, I, p. lxxvi.

in Sutton's memoranda, but most of his visitation-rolls have perished. One fragment, now in the Diocesan Record Office at Lincoln, records part of a visitation of Wellow Abbey in 1287. The house was found to be in financial difficulties, due partly to a murrain and partly to inefficient administration, while quarrels among the brethren were exacerbated by the unlawful entry of gossiping women into the precincts and by the indiscretions of the abbot's servant Alan 'commonly named "Girl" because he is too free with his tongue'. It is a pity that no more visitation records have survived, since they would have given us a lively picture of the vicissitudes of monastic life at this period.

In addition to performing the duties of visitation, Sutton instituted the heads of religious communities (provided that he was satisfied with their credentials and the records of their election or nomination¹) and received their resignations.² He protected the rights and property of the religious orders against encroachments by laymen or by the secular clergy,³ imposed discipline upon those individuals who had got beyond the control of their own superior,⁴ and gave good advice when he thought it necessary.⁵ On the whole the members of religious orders submitted gracefully to all this, although they seem to have found the bishop's insistence upon the rights of his 'spouse the church of Lincoln' a little irksome at times.⁶ When it came to dealing with elderly abbots and priors who had resigned from office, the bishop was particularly kind, seeing to it that they had comfortable quarters, good food and adequate, even luxurious, service.⁷ Archbishop Pecham, who had the love of austerity natural to a good Franciscan, thought that Sutton sometimes erred on the side of generosity to these people. During his metropolitan visitation of the diocese of Lincoln he gave orders that the retired prior of Luffield was to be ejected from the separate chamber which the bishop had allotted to him, in which he was spending his time in 'damnable sloth'.⁸

It is difficult to make any satisfactory generalisations about the state of religious houses in the diocese of Lincoln—or indeed in England as a whole—in the period between 1280 and 1299. As one would expect, extreme sanctity and extreme disorder were alike rare. There is no reason to suppose that genuine religious vocations were more common, in proportion to the number of the population, in the thirteenth century than they are today, but the proportion of men and women who entered the religious life was very much higher then than it is now. Such people took the vows for a number of different reasons. Some had experienced a real call to serve God under the rule. Some were attracted by

¹ L.R.S. 39, pp. xxiii and xxiv. ² Register, f. 1^v, p. 5. ³ *Ibid.*, f. 132^v.

⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 139. ⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 153^v–f. 154.

⁶ L.R.S. 39, pp. 203–5.

⁷ Register, f. 137^v. See also L.R.S. 43, p. 12.

⁸ Peckham, *Registrum*, ed. Trice Martin (R.S.), III, p. 854.

the opportunities, which were plentiful, given in the cloister for organising and administrative work, some were confirmed bachelors or recluses by temperament, and others were old soldiers or tired parish priests seeking quietness at the end of their days. Many had simply followed the path of least resistance and entered religion because their families expected it of them. For women, the religious life offered advantages and opportunities which were not confined to those with outstanding spiritual gifts. Taking the veil was the only dignified alternative to marriage open to a girl of gentle birth, and as head of a house or a senior obedientiary she had opportunities which would normally have been denied to her if she had stayed in the world. The intellectual standards of nuns were not, unfortunately, what they had been in the days of S. Hilda of Whitby or S. Lioba. Sutton generally took it for granted that women could not understand the subtler points of canon law,¹ and on one occasion he wrote in French to a community of women on the assumption that their Latin scholarship had proved unequal to the task of disentangling the instructions which he had sent to them in a previous letter.² Nevertheless nuns did learn to read and write, and they must have acquired some Latin, even if it were only enough to enable them to struggle through the canonical hours and the psalter. Their education was not very advanced, but it was the best education open to English women at the time, and a girl with a desire for learning would have stood a better chance of satisfying it in a convent than she did anywhere else.

The fact that one of its members belonged to a distinguished religious house must have enhanced the prestige of any but the most exalted family. Social ambition, no less than the desire to do one's duty by the church, entered into the considerations of parents who devoted their children to the religious life. A son at S. Alban's or Christ Church, Canterbury, was taking his place among the influential landowners of the country,³ while a daughter at Amesbury attended chapel or ate her meals in the company of a widowed queen or a young princess.⁴ The inmates of these outstanding houses had a clear sense of the dignity of their own position. Individually they had taken vows of obedience and poverty; corporately they were extremely powerful and wealthy and were counted among the great barons of the land, and they expected their standard of living to conform to their social position. In such houses austerity could be practised, but it was confined to those who were more than ordinarily devout, and the life of the average monk was probably not unlike that of a fellow of a rich college in the eighteenth or early nineteenth century. He had

¹ L.R.S. 39, p. 124.

² Register, f. 129v.

³ For a study of the wealth and influence of such a house see R. A. L. Smith, *Canterbury Cathedral Priory*.

⁴ Register, f. 32v, p. 132, and f. 73v.

gone a long way from the ideals of S. Benedict or S. Bernard of Clairvaux, but he cannot be blamed over-much for this, since there is no reason to suppose that he had ever experienced the over-mastering call of the Spirit which brought those two great saints into the monastic life.

Not all religious houses were well-endowed. At the other extreme from communities such as S. Alban's or Peterborough stood the little priories and hospitals, often founded by patrons who could not afford great endowments, and now existing unhappily on small fixed revenues in an age when prices were steadily rising. Life for the inhabitants of these houses must have been a matter of continual anxiety, for such natural disasters as a murrain, a fire or a bad harvest could reduce the community to the edge of beggary.¹ Some of these houses were only just making ends meet in a good year, and although occasionally, as at Brackley, a kindly benefactor would come to the rescue,² conditions in general must have been hard and precarious. New recruits rarely came to these little communities, so that to the physical discomforts of poor fare and dilapidated buildings must have been added the inevitable tedium of life in a small isolated household composed mainly of people who had no real talent for the religious exercises to which they were constrained by their vows.

In general the average monk, canon-regular or nun in the thirteenth century seems to have led a decent, orderly and God-fearing life, although the senior members of most houses have suffered a good deal from temptations to over-anxiety about mundane affairs. They could hardly avoid taking thought for the morrow, either because their monastic estates were so big as to entail heavy feudal responsibilities or because they were not big enough to safeguard the future of the house. Among the religious there was a certain amount of bickering and an occasional example of flagrant indiscipline, but taking into consideration all the motives which drew unsuitable people into the cloister it is surprising that things were no worse.

Certain religious orders, such as the Cistericans, the Gilbertines, the Premonstratensians, the Templars, the Hospitallers and the Friars, were by the end of the thirteenth century under the direct protection of the papacy and exempt from the jurisdiction of the diocesan bishop, so that no episcopal visitation could be carried out in any of their houses. Not much evidence about the activities of the military orders or the Friars can be gleaned from the register, although they had many houses in the diocese. The Templars and Hospitallers, who were patrons of many livings, are usually mentioned as collecting money or appropriating churches by papal dispensation; both orders were constantly pleading poverty, although among

¹ L.R.S. 39, pp. 54-5, and Register, f. 174.

² *Ibid.* 43, pp. 93-5.

the Templars at least there would appear to have been little reason for such a complaint. Sutton seems, on the whole, to have approved of the friars. He sometimes delegated to members of their orders responsible duties such as the imposition of suitable penances, and his official penitentiary, Brother Ralph of Tofts, was a Franciscan.¹ None of the records of his episcopate gives any hint of the tension which is known to have existed at this time between the mendicant orders and the parish clergy.

A number of entries in the register deal with the election and institution of the heads of religious houses, their resignation, and the formal blessing of abbots. Since this subject has been discussed extensively in the introduction to an earlier volume of Sutton's register² I do not propose to deal with it here. An interesting example of the bishop's common-sense and consideration for his people may be found among the records of the year 1297, when, contrary to his usual practice, he allowed the Archdeacon of Huntingdon to examine an election made at Ashridge, because the house was poor and he thought that the canons should be spared the trouble and expense of a long journey.³ The bishop regularly appointed discreet male custodians to look after the affairs of the smaller nunneries and took care that these men did not neglect their duties.⁴ The prioress of Studley was given a special adviser to help her in business matters affecting the house.⁵

Visitations, in the form which has already been described, were carried out either by the bishop in person or by commissaries, usually distinguished men such as archdeacons or canons of the cathedral, who were specially appointed for the purpose. Master Nicholas of Appletree, acting as curator of the Archdeaconry of Huntingdon during a vacancy, was sent to visit the hospital of Holy Trinity outside Northampton.⁶ Master Nicholas of Whitchurch, the bishop's official, was directed to go and visit Bardney.⁷ When 'certain sinister rumours' came to the bishop's ears about the nuns of Fosse he commissioned Master Richard of Winchcomb and Master William of Fotheringhay to investigate the cause of the trouble.⁸

A bishop's injunctions made on the spot as a direct result of visitation were not normally preserved in his register. Such injunctions of Sutton as have survived have come down to us because they were written in the form of letters written by the bishop after he had left the scene of his visitation. Most of them deal with problems of general discipline. The prioress of Markyate was ordered to prevent secular persons, both men and women, from coming into the convent precincts and behaving in an unseemly way,⁹ and the prioress of Studley received two injunctions

¹ Register, f. 22, p. 90.

² L.R.S. 39.

³ Register, f. 160.

⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 83-4.

⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 65.

⁶ *Ibid.*, f. 171.

⁷ *Ibid.*, f. 171v.

⁸ *Ibid.*, f. 161-161v.

⁹ *Ibid.*, f. 164.

that she was not to allow an undesirable clerk to hang about the nunnery.¹ The prioress of Sewardsey was instructed to send a report on Isabel of Cowley, who had left the house some time previously in order to claim her mother's inheritance and divide it with her sisters, and who now wished to return.²

Unruly members of religious orders caused an amount of trouble entirely disproportionate to their numbers, which were small. Christina of Heyford, a nun at Harrold, fell in love with a married man and lay with him.³ Agnes of Sheen, a nun at Godstow, disappeared from a cart in which she was riding along the King's highway near Wycombe. The first reports to reach the bishop suggested that a band of armed ruffians had appeared while she was journeying quietly along in God's peace and the King's, and had forcibly carried her off;⁴ later it became obvious that she had eloped.⁵ Three monks at Tickford insulted the bishop to his face and flatly refused to obey either his orders or those of their own prior.⁶

Serious offenders such as apostates (that is to say people who had taken religious vows and later forsworn themselves), runaways and those who committed flagrant and repeated acts of disobedience were as a rule excommunicated. Other troublesome members of religious orders, whose offences were really a form of aggravated bad manners and behaviour intolerable in a community, were sent, at the bishop's command, to do penance in other houses of the same order, where they received the further punishment of being forced to take the lowest place in chapel, refectory and chapter-house. This form of discipline had good effects upon some people but increased the stubbornness of others. Thomas of Wallingford, one of the canons of Dorchester-on-Thames, made such a nuisance of himself to his fellows that they 'thought his manners and behaviour unendurable'.⁷ Sutton exiled him first to Wellow near Grimsby⁸. (a cold place after the gentle Thames valley) and thence to Bourne,⁹ where he seems to have mended his ways. On the other hand Ascelina of Wothorpe, when she returned to her convent at Wothorpe after a penitential sojourn at Nun Coton, seemed to have become worse rather than better, and was reported to be 'disobedient, rebellious and incorrigible'. Sutton told the prioress to shut her up in solitary confinement 'until she wishes to live in a community and knows how to do it'.¹⁰ A poor novice at Missenden, 'in fear of the discipline which was imposed upon him according to the custom of novices in a regular and tolerable way', tried to commit suicide by cutting his throat in the novices' lodging.¹¹ He did not succeed in killing himself although he lost a good deal of

¹ Register, f. 92, and f. 129v.

⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 5v, p. 22.

⁷ *Ibid.*, f. 139.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, f. 189.

² *Ibid.*, f. 95v.

⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 32v, p. 132.

⁸ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Ibid.*, f. 164v.

³ *Ibid.*, f. 183v.

⁶ *Ibid.*, f. 2, p. 6.

⁹ *Ibid.*, f. 177.

blood. The abbot showed no particular anxiety over the unfortunate young man, because he was mainly concerned to find out whether the bloodshed had caused technical desecration of the whole house, so that services could not be held in the chapel until it had been reconciled. Sutton set his mind at rest on this point, but the fate of the novice is unknown.

It must be emphasised that such cases as these were not common, but rather unusual, in the religious life of England in the thirteenth century. Life in a monastery or nunnery was bound to have its difficulties, but a great majority of the religious appear to have behaved with credit and discretion even if few of them came anywhere near the level of sanctity. There were doubtless men and women whose lives were full of the beauty of holiness, but since they constituted no problem of diocesan administration the records have nothing to say of them.

IV

The university of Oxford presented Bishop Sutton with one of the most serious problems which arose in the administration of his diocese. The fame of Oxford as a centre of learning goes far back into the twelfth century, and there is evidence to show that scholars were working in the town at least a generation before the traditional date of 1166 which was supposed to mark the founding of the university. By the time of Giraldus Cambrensis it was already natural for a writer to come to Oxford if he wanted to find an appreciative audience for a reading of his learned works, and by 1209 the university was sufficiently well organised to enable it to avenge, by the terrible weapon of a mass migration, wrongs which had been done to its clerks by over-hasty citizens.¹

As a rule the system of government in medieval universities, as in other societies at the time, grew out of the demands of practical necessity. No university was founded according to a set plan until Frederick II tried a new experiment in his Sicilian kingdom. The older universities had developed gradually over a long period, and had usually acquired high fame for scholarship while their administration was still exceedingly rudimentary. Decisions of the masters and scholars concerning the ordered government of their society were made experimentally, according to circumstances, and precedent took a long time to harden into custom. Oxford was already famous as a centre of learning by the end of the twelfth century, but a hundred years later the bishop and the regent-masters were still honestly unable to agree as to what sort of corporation the university was.

¹ For the early history of the University of Oxford see Rashdall's *Medieval Universities*, ed. Powicke and Emden, III, pp. 1-139.

The English universities followed the tradition of Paris rather than that of Bologna. Schools of the Parisian type were guilds of masters, to whom scholars came for the purpose of acquiring learning, in the hope that they would pick up enough to become at length masters in their own right, while the schools which followed the fashion of Bologna were guilds of scholars, employing their masters as professional sophists and paying them salaries. In a university of the latter kind, therefore, authority rested finally with the students' guild and the rector whom the students appointed, while in the former it rested with the guild of masters. Since Oxford had based its tradition upon that of Paris, a system had grown up before the end of the thirteenth century by which the controlling body inside the university was the Great Congregation of masters, the '*congregatio regentium et non-regentium*', in which the chancellor presided.

The history of the office of chancellor can be traced back in outline as far as 1214. The chancellor of Oxford was always in a position very different from that of the official of the same name who was one of the *Quatuor Personae* of a cathedral and, among other duties, ruled over the cathedral school. Oxford was not a cathedral city until the Reformation, and the university had grown up in a remote corner of the diocese of Lincoln, far away from the influence of the bishop and chapter. It owed nothing to the influence of a cathedral school. In fact the chancellor of Oxford and the chancellor of Lincoln had nothing in common except the name and the fact that each of them was responsible for the general supervision of a body of teachers and scholars, but the schools of Oxford, with their faculties of theology, medicine, law and arts, and their assembly of learned and distinguished masters, were completely unlike the limited and strictly specialised cathedral school, which was a training-place for priests. In Paris, where there was a cathedral and where the bishop, whose diocese was small in comparison with that of Lincoln, was generally to be found within a few miles of the city, his chancellor combined the two functions of chapter official and ruler of the *studium*, and it was only after a long struggle, and with the support of the Pope and the King of France, that the university escaped from constant episcopal interference. In Oxford, on the other hand, the chancellor identified himself with the university, and all through the thirteenth century the holders of this office were trying to assert their independence of the bishop's control. Their task was rendered somewhat easier by the facts that Oxford was far from Lincoln and that when they came round on visitations the successive bishops of that see generally avoided staying in the town, preferring to take up their quarters in the Abbey of Osney outside the walls. At the same time the claims of the chancellor were sharply contested by the bishops, all of whom were men of integrity and energy with a deep sense of their responsibilities towards their cathedral and their diocese.

Sutton himself had spent half his life in the University of Oxford. He had come up as a young scholar and stayed on to become a regent-master renting his own hall, until his election as Dean of Lincoln interrupted his plans for further academic work. He had sat in the Great Congregation, and knew from inside how difficult were the problems which could arise in the course of the administration of a university. Moreover, there is some reason to believe that he kept to the end of his life an affection for Oxford which was unimpaired by his suspicions of the manœuvres of its *cetus magistrorum*. In the final agreement between Sutton and the chancellor of Oxford, made before Archbishop Pecham in 1281, the bishop mentions the 'special and intimate affection which he has always had for the said university, and still has'.¹ In 1296 he wrote to Pope Boniface VIII supporting the appeal of Oxford for the *jus ubique docendi*.² When he confirmed the charter of Devorguilla de Balliol, he expressly approved the foundation of Balliol College as a deed 'which redounds to the praise of God, the veneration of the heavenly host, the exaltation of the church militant and the honour of the said university'.³ There is a note of real and personal indignation in his mandate for the excommunication of some unknown persons who in 1296 had murdered certain Oxford scholars, 'young and innocent lads'.⁴ (Perhaps he remembered the boys who had lived with him in Deep Hall thirty years earlier.) His attitude to the university as a whole was deeply protective. As he wrote to the chancellor and masters in 1295, 'we have always been ready to take care of you in charity, and we shall be prepared to give you further protection, if you will but come under our wings'.⁵ It must have been a tragedy for him to realise that the last place in which any Oxford chancellor of the thirteenth century desired to find himself was under the wings of the Bishop of Lincoln.

Sutton's attitude to his diocese was that of a thoroughly benevolent conservative. He stood for the good old traditions laid down by his predecessors, and he was, as we have seen, intensely suspicious of new formulæ and unprecedented actions. He refused to accept any election or appointment of the head of a religious house unless the minute points of canon law had been meticulously observed, and he always questioned a letter which did not agree with the accepted formula. He distrusted innovations, regarding them with some justification as potential threats to the safety and well-being of his church. To him the University of Oxford was simply a large and rather distinguished clerical corporation which God had seen fit to place in his diocese and which must therefore submit to his authority. It consisted of a body of clergy, banded together for a common purpose and guided by a responsible head

¹ *Medieval Archives of the University of Oxford*, ed. H. E. Salter, pp. 37-9.

² Register, f. 134. ³ *Ibid.*, f. 75v-f. 76. ⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 144v. ⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 118v.

who must, in Sutton's opinion, be instituted by the bishop in person. Since, unlike the Templars or the Franciscans, the Oxford masters could not produce a papal bull exempting them from diocesan jurisdiction, they were in much the same position as a community of Austin canons, open to episcopal visitation, and bound to submit to the bishop any matters such as the appointment of a superior or a serious dispute among their members. Because of the large number of its scholars and the complexity of its structure the university presented Sutton with a problem far greater than that raised by any single religious house, but the difference, to him, was accidental rather than essential.

The chancellor and regent-masters saw the situation in quite a different light. To them, the university was one of those great ecclesiastical corporations which stood for the most part outside diocesan jurisdiction, although they were prepared to make use of the bishop when they found it convenient to do so. (In 1317 the masters petitioned Sutton's successor, Dalderby, asking him to remove from office a chancellor whom they did not like.¹ The fact that this petition totally undermined the whole ground of their opposition to the Bishops of Lincoln during the last forty years does not seem to have worried them in the slightest degree, and they continued to claim the right to elect their own chancellors without episcopal interference.) Except when a bishop's interference could bring some such practical advantage as this, however, the university felt that it had outgrown his authority. Since the whole of England was divided into provinces and dioceses it was unavoidable that the Great Congregation should have some dealings with archbishops and bishops, but except in matters of emergency it intended to keep its relations with them on a basis of strict formality, and to defer to episcopal authority, when it became necessary so to do, as a matter of courtesy and not of right. The university did not like submitting to visitation, it objected to the idea that individual masters could appeal directly to the bishop over the head of the chancellor's court, and it fought hard, and in the end successfully, against the bishop's claim that he had the right to appoint a chancellor after he had received a recommendation from the Great Congregation.

Within a year of his enthronement Sutton was already deeply involved in the dispute over ecclesiastical jurisdiction in the university. In the spring of 1281 he had tried to carry out a visitation in Oxford and had met with determined resistance. The chancellor Henry of Stanton and the proctors treated him, as he complained, injuriously and contemptuously. In spite of their opposition he pressed his inquiries and discovered that a number of masters and scholars were accused of fornication.² As bishop,

¹ *University Archives* (Oxford Hist. Soc.) I, p. 105.

² H. E. Salter, *op. cit.*, I, pp. 37-9.

he was bound to correct this fault in them, and as an individual he particularly disliked it. (He was, as Scalleby says, the most chaste of men.)¹ When he tried to enforce the canon law against the transgressors the chancellor intervened, declaring that he alone had the right of visitation and correction of members of the university unless they had appealed directly to the bishop. Any report he might make to the bishop after a case had been tried in his court was, so he declared, simply a matter of courtesy and not of duty. Sutton could not let this pass. The dispute went up to the court of the archbishop, where Sutton was eventually forced into making some concessions. He made as few as possible, granting the chancellor his rights within a setting of legal formulae designed to make it perfectly clear that those rights proceeded from the bishop alone and were revocable at his will. 'The bishop' so ran the text of this document 'by his own pure and unbiased liberality . . . has kindly granted as a special grace . . . for his lifetime . . . by the authority lawfully proceeding from the said lord bishop'. The chancellor was left without any claim to a jurisdiction that was really independent, however fully he might be endowed with the practical cognizance of breaches of the canon law by members of the university. Moreover it is clear that Sutton did not leave him alone even after the agreement of 1281. Two letters written in November 1284 by Archbishop Pecham show that the bishop was still harrying the university.² In the first of these the archbishop advised Sutton not to interfere too much in matters pertaining to the chancellor's jurisdiction, even if such interference were prompted by zeal for reform, 'do not pull up the tares in such a way that you destroy the wheat'. In the second he warned the bishop that his severity might well cause enough bitter feeling to start a migration of the university, 'for you may know for certain, I believe, that this your special flock will rather expose itself dispersed to the teeth of the beasts of the field than submit to the unaccustomed servitude of this your austerity.' Pecham was carrying out a metropolitan visitation of the university at the time when these letters were written, so he had a good opportunity of estimating the strength of feeling among the chancellor's supporters. He does not seem, however, to have given them unequivocal support; in a letter written to the university in January 1285 he counselled moderation and advised the Great Congregation to make its peace with the bishop.³ An uneasy truce was in fact patched up. The threatened dispersal did not actually take place, but relations between the parties remained very uncomfortable, and the university continued to regard appeals to the bishop with extreme suspicion unless they had gone first to the Lesser Congregation of

¹ Gir. Camb., *op. cit.*, VII, p. 211.

² Peckham *Registrum*, ed. Trice Martin, (R.S.), III, pp. 857-60.

³ *Ibid.*, III, pp. 886-8.



regent-masters and then to the Great Congregation of regents and non-regents. In 1288, when the quarrel over the appointment as chancellor of William of Kingscote was at its height, Sutton issued a mandate excommunicating all those who knowingly made or observed statutes and customs contrary to episcopal authority and the rights of the church of Lincoln, while at the same time he expressly declared himself ready to grant absolution to those who had entered into agreements to observe such statutes without fully understanding their implications.¹ At the time of the confirmation of John of Monmouth in the office of chancellor, Scalleby wrote that the university was still trying to block appeals which had not gone by way of the congregations. This claim, he said, was the cause of great disputes between the masters on the one hand and the bishop and his archdeacon on the other. The university was in a dangerous mood, and Scalleby ended the memorandum with one of his rare personal notes 'Care must be taken not to give way too much'.² It is certain that Sutton continued to claim a direct appellate jurisdiction over the chancellor's court, and that his claim was resisted. The case of Robert Baldock, Master of Arts, is particularly interesting. A decision of the chancellor's court had deprived Master Robert of his lodging in favour of another claimant. Master Robert, acting (according to the agreement of 1281) perfectly in accordance with his rights, appealed to the bishop against this decision.³ The chancellor promptly avenged the dignity of his court by suspending the unfortunate man's licence to teach and thus taking away his livelihood. Sutton intervened on his behalf,⁴ but the result of the dispute is not known. In any case the discomfort and anxiety caused to poor Master Robert would probably have been enough to deter other members of the university from following his example in the matter of appeals to the bishop.

Although the question of appellate jurisdiction was important, the crucial point in the dispute between the bishop and the university lay in the problem of the appointment of the chancellor.⁵ From the point of view of the bishop the chancellor of a university was simply the head of an ecclesiastical corporation within the diocese, and occupied a position rather like that of a prior or the master of a hospital. He might be, as the university claimed, 'elected' by the masters as an abbot was elected by the members of his community, or he might be, as Sutton declared, 'nominated' by the masters for the bishop to accept or refuse as he thought fit. In any case, the chancellor could not lawfully exercise any authority until he received an official commission from the bishop. This fact was made quite clear by documentary evidence which both Sutton

¹ Cambridge MS. Dd. VII, 6, f. 22v.

² Register, f. 3, p. 10.

³ *Ibid.*, f. 114.

⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 118v.

⁵ *Snappes Formulary*, ed. H. E. Salter, pp. 41-2.

and the men who wished successively to be confirmed in the office of chancellor must have read. The statute of 1214 had described the chancellor as the man 'whom the bishop shall set up there in charge of the scholars'.¹ In fact the members of the Great Congregation were themselves prepared to recognise the bishop's authority in this matter when they thought that such authority might prove useful to themselves, as they showed in their petition of 1317.

Whether the chancellors were elected or nominated, Sutton was firmly convinced that their actual institution must be performed by the bishop in person, and his claim was supported by the wording of the statute of 1214. In this connection it is important to make a clear distinction between Sutton's personal opinions and those which he expressed as ruler of the diocese. As a private individual, he may have felt much sympathy for the regent-masters, many of whom had been his colleagues at Oxford, while some were still his personal friends. As a bishop, however, his duties were perfectly clear. He had to uphold the rights of his church, even if he lost his friends and became thoroughly unpopular in Oxford by so doing. His episcopal ring was the constant reminder that he was the husband of his church and therefore the responsible protector of her rights, while his pastoral staff laid upon him the duty of being a shepherd to all his people, regent-masters among the rest. Whatever his personal ties with Oxford he was bound to uphold the rights of his position. In fact there is plenty of evidence that he had a remarkably strong sense of the legal claims of his bishopric, and felt himself bound to resist any attempts to whittle away his authority. When he instituted the head of any religious community he appears to have walked especially warily, and to have insisted upon exact compliance with all the formulae laid down by canon law. He was, in fact, so careful to stop up any loophole through which a precedent might creep in to threaten the authority of the church of Lincoln that he sometimes insisted on matters of detail to a degree which must have tried the patience of his contemporaries. He made it clear that he considered it his business to see that the rules of canon law were kept, and to allow nobody to deviate from them. These rules, he knew, applied as surely to the great University of Oxford as to the smallest cell or hospital.

When any person had to be confirmed in an ecclesiastical office, great importance was attached to the actual form of the letters by which this confirmation was requested and given. There was thus gradually evolved a 'common form' by which the lawful rights of both parties were safeguarded. The slightest modification of this form was suspect in the eyes of a legal expert (and Sutton had studied canon law at Oxford). It might be an innocent slip in the wording, but there was always the risk that it would turn

¹ *Medieval Archives of the University of Oxford*, ed. H. E. Salter, I, p. 3.

out to be a subtle move planned to establish a new precedent. The bishop who accepted a new formula without expressly reserving all his rights was failing in his duty to his office. He had prejudiced the liberties of his church, and given away what was not his to give.

When the headship of a religious house was in question, the proper formulae were already well known. This fact did not prevent people from trying to alter them. Sutton once sent a letter of presentation back to the Abbot of Bec to be re-written, with a covering note in which he expressed the hope that the abbot would in future take as much care of other people's rights as he did of his own.¹ Checking the terms of letters of presentation to religious houses was a fairly simple matter, for the bishop could discover, by examining his own register and those of his predecessors, whether or not the writer had adhered strictly to the accepted formula. The formulae relating to the chancellorship of Oxford, however, were still being worked out in the time of Sutton's episcopate. The letters had not settled into a completely regular common form, and indeed it was impossible for them to do so, because nobody had succeeded in indicating the precise place which the university ought to occupy in ecclesiastical society. It was therefore all the more important for the bishop to establish the proper wording of these letters, and to make sure that nothing appeared in them which might harden into a precedent dangerous to the rights of his see of Lincoln.

Since the memoranda dealing with the first ten years of Sutton's episcopate have been lost, we have no first-hand record of his confirmation of any chancellor earlier than John of Monmouth,² but the Annals of Osney give some account of the confirmation of William of Kingscote in this office in 1289, and although these annals are sometimes inaccurate in matters of detail³ there is no reason to doubt the substantial truth of the story which they tell. In 1288 William of Kingscote had refused to appear before the bishop for institution as chancellor, claiming that as he had already been elected by the university the most that could be expected of him was that he should send messengers to Sutton asking for official confirmation of his election. The bishop refused to act in these conditions; he would never have agreed to institute an abbot or prior who refused to appear before him in person and he saw no reason for making an exception in the case of a chancellor. The university, to judge from one of Sutton's letters preserved in a manuscript at Cambridge,⁴ was filled with vexation. The Annals of Osney report that many masters suspended their lectures and the students began to go home. The quarrel dragged on for

¹ L.R.S., 39, p. 144.

² Register, f. 3, p. 9.

³ E.g., the date of Sutton's consecration is wrongly given. *Annales Monastici*, ed. H. R. Luard, (R.S.), p. 284.

⁴ Cambridge MS., Dd., VII, 6, f. 22v.

a year, until it was settled by the intervention of a party of moderate men, '*viris providis et discretis mediatoribus factis*'. Kingscote was accepted as chancellor and lectures were resumed.¹ Unfortunately we do not know what formula was found to reconcile Sutton's official dignity with the claims of the university. In the light of evidence given in the register about the institution of subsequent chancellors it is unlikely that he budged very far from his original position. He was still declaring that a chancellor-elect must appear before him for institution when William of Kingscote's successor, John of Monmouth, sought office.

William, who was confirmed in office in 1289, must have resigned almost at once. He was succeeded by John of Monmouth, whose confirmation was delayed by a dispute with the bishop.² The documents concerning the election or appointment of John's four immediate successors, Simon de Gandavo, Roger Mortival, Roger of Weasenham and Richard of Clive, are given fully in the existing memoranda. From the evidence afforded by these five sets of entries it is clear that the masters of Oxford were launching a threefold attack upon the bishop's position. In the first place, they wanted to establish the claim that their representatives appeared before the bishop not as proxies, armed with full powers to represent the university and therefore to answer for its doings, but simply as messengers, sent to inform him of the name of the chancellor-elect. Secondly, they claimed that they had the power of electing a chancellor and not merely that of nominating a person whom the bishop might, or might not, appoint to that office. (They were, as they showed in 1317, rather inconsistent in the use which they made of this claim.) Finally they tried to break down the custom by which a chancellor, like the head of any other ecclesiastical corporation, was bound to appear in person before the bishop when he received confirmation of his new office. If they could establish all or any of these claims, they would have taken a great step forward in making the university independent of episcopal control. In Sutton, however, they found an opponent whose long years of experience in diocesan administration had trained him to deal with every kind of polite excuse which might hide a dangerous intention. Moreover he was one of Oxford's own *alumni* and he knew what was going on in the minds of his adversaries. He had probably been playing the same game himself twenty years before he became Bishop of Lincoln.

He made no criticism of the scholarship or reputation of the persons whom the Great Congregation chose to fill the office of chancellor. He could not in fairness have done so, for they were all distinguished and learned men, some of whom subsequently held other high offices. All of them were doctors of theology. John of Monmouth later became Bishop of Llandaff and Simon

¹ *Annales Monastici* (R.S.), IV, pp. 317-8.

² Register, f. 3, p. 9.

de Gandavo Bishop of Salisbury, while Roger Mortival held the office of Dean of Lincoln under Bishop Dalderby before succeeding to the bishopric of Salisbury in 1315. Roger of Weasenham had been Archdeacon of Rochester before he held the chancellorship. Both John of Monmouth and Simon de Gandavo were close personal friends of Oliver Sutton in private life. The bishop could thus hardly take exception to the choice made by the masters of the university, but in other respects he found their behaviour unsatisfactory. For one thing, it was difficult for him to determine whether their representatives were true proxies or not. The messengers who brought the name of Simon de Gandavo were asked whether they had with them the usual letters of credence accorded to proxies 'and they replied "No," adding that it was not customary, as they believed.' Sutton clearly thought that failure to produce such letters would have invalidated the election if one had taken place. There was, however, in his opinion, no election to be invalidated. He therefore told the messengers that he would appoint Simon to the chancellorship as a matter of grace, provided that no precedent were set up.¹ When the name of Roger Mortival was reported to the bishop the question of proctorial authority came up again. The messengers were at first unwilling to admit that they were true proxies, but when pressed, 'after some subterfuges', they produced their letters of credence.² The Master of Arts who came to announce the university's choice of Roger of Weasenham appears to have had his letter in his pocket. He did not offer it to the bishop at the beginning of his interview, although this would have been the normal thing to do. When, however, Sutton insisted on seeing the document it was produced at once.³

The second bone of contention between Sutton and the university was the use of the term 'election' to describe the proceedings by which the masters arrived at the choice of a name to be submitted to the bishop as that of chancellor. The existing evidence, so far as Sutton's register goes, does not show whether William of Kingscote or John of Monmouth claimed, in so many words, that they had been elected, but we know that both of them had a stormy passage to the chancellorship, and the Osney Annals state explicitly that William of Kingscote regarded himself as chancellor by election. In view of the claims put forward by their successors it is probable that they did use the word which Sutton found so obnoxious. John of Monmouth finally received his commission from the bishop in 1290, and when the document was actually drawn up it stated, clearly and with emphasis, that the new chancellor had been appointed by Sutton after appearing before him in person. According to John de Scalleby's interesting note at the end of this memorandum, the university had, on this occasion, been more than usually

¹ Register, f. 43 and f. 44^v, pp. 175 and 180. ² *Ibid.*, f. 87^v. ³ *Ibid.*, f. 117.

troublesome. 'He who does not wish to suffer disadvantage and prejudice in future' wrote Scalleby 'had better take care not to give way too much to the university people in granting commissions and in other matters, for . . . they have begun to rear themselves up in the spirit of pride against the see of Lincoln.'¹ When Simon de Gandavo's name was put forward, election was mentioned again, for Sutton remarked caustically that he could see what sort of serpent was lurking in the hearts of the masters of the university. The next chancellor, he said, 'whether elected or nominated', must come in person to receive confirmation at the hands of the bishop.² (This Simon de Gandavo had not officially done, although he came in an apologetic mood to pay Sutton a private visit.) The choice of Roger Mortival in 1293 was described by the university as 'election or nomination',³ and Sutton explicitly called it 'a nomination', but in 1294 the word 'elected' was used unequivocally of Roger of Weasenham.⁴ This roused Sutton to protest. Chancellors, he said, were not elected. They were nominated for appointment, but the final choice rested with the bishop. He added that when Robert Grosseteste of blessed memory had held this office the existing Bishop of Lincoln (Hugh of Wells) would not suffer him even to be called chancellor, but only 'master of the schools'. This statement must have been founded upon facts which were generally known to be true, for the representative of the university did not try to contradict it. He fell back upon a quibble, asking the bishop to act '*gracioso*' in the matter of confirmation. The word was capable of a two-fold interpretation. It might mean 'according to grace rather than to a strict interpretation of the law', and Sutton would probably have agreed that this exactly described the procedure which he had been accustomed to follow in granting his commission to chancellors. The word, however, could also bear a much vaguer significance; it could mean 'graciously' or 'kindly', and if used in this way it might have implied that Sutton was politely accepting the fact that a valid election had already taken place. He saw the trap (he must have been glad that he had sought the discipline of the faculty of law at Oxford) and avoided it carefully when he issued his letter of confirmation.

The last chancellor to take office during Sutton's episcopate was Richard of Clive, appointed in 1297. By this time the bishop, although still a man of remarkable vigour, was beginning to feel his age. He had been ill,⁵ he was beginning to refuse invitations on grounds of bodily weakness.⁶ he had already made his will more than once,⁷ and he had concluded the arrangements for the chantry which was to provide for his soul's welfare after his death.⁸ The university may have felt that its claims could be pressed forward

¹ Register, f. 3, p. 10.

² *Ibid.*, f. 44^v, p. 181.

³ *Ibid.*, f. 87^v.

⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 117.

⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 169.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Ibid.*, f. 25, p. 103, f. 45, p. 182, f. 150^v.

⁸ *Ibid.*, f. 358^v-f. 359.

as the bishop's energy diminished. Its representatives used a new formula and announced that Richard of Clive had been 'elected according to the custom of former times',¹ but they found that the bishop had lost none of his old vigilance. It was, he explained patiently, not a question of election but one of nomination, and he was ready to confirm the university's choice—but only in the usual terms.

Finally, there was the question as to whether or not the man chosen to be chancellor—whatever the nature of the ceremony by which he was raised to that office—should appear in person before the bishop in order to receive his commission. Such a visit was obligatory when a man was elected or nominated to the headship of a religious house, and Sutton obviously thought that chancellors should consider themselves bound by the same rule. The university disagreed, and generally managed to carry its point. John of Monmouth is the only chancellor who can be proved to have appeared before the bishop with due formality.² One of the causes of the long and bitter quarrel between Sutton and William of Kingscote had been William's insistence on his right to receive confirmation '*per nuncios*', and the Osney Annals do not say whether the 'prudent and discreet mediators' who intervened in the dispute succeeded in inducing him to change his mind on this point.³ Simon de Gandavo was one of Sutton's personal friends. He managed, by pleading poor health and much business, to avoid making a formal appearance, but he met the bishop for a private and informal consultation, in the course of which he explained that he had been unwilling to accept the office in the first place, and that he had given way to pressure from the masters. Poor Simon was being torn between two claims upon his loyalty, and he seems to have been moved by a genuine desire to act as a peace-maker between Sutton and the university. Roger Mortival excused himself from attendance on the bishop by pleading 'danger to the university from the secular arm in his absence'. The use of this formula certainly suggests that he considered himself competent to act as chancellor even before he had received letters of confirmation, since he could hardly have resisted the secular arm effectively as a private individual. Roger of Weasenham's excuse for non-attendance was not particularly original. Finding that Sutton was at Nettleham in Lincolnshire, he pleaded his inability to undertake a journey so long and so expensive.

The excuse put forward by Richard of Clive was curious, and it is all the more odd to find that it became the regular formula for explaining the refusal of chancellors to receive confirmation of their office at the hands of the Bishops of Lincoln in the fourteenth century. Sutton was in residence at Stow Park in Lincolnshire when there

¹ Register, f. 170v.

² *Ibid.*, f. 3, p. 10.

³ *Annales Monastici* IV, pp. 317–8.

appeared before him Master Gilbert of Seagrave, a canon of Lincoln, in his capacity as a senior member of the university. Gilbert produced his letters of credence without making any objection, and explained that the university had been unable to send either its chancellor-elect or proxies despatched directly from the Great Congregation. The reasons which he put forward to explain this defection were the length, labour and expense of the journey and the fact that the absence of any of the senior and responsible members of the university would have a bad effect on study 'since when any regent-masters are absent on common business, all the rest soon stop teaching'. Sutton had apparently never heard of such a thing and retorted flatly that he did not believe it, 'he declared to the said proctor that the said university had invented a new formula'. He had taught at Oxford himself and should have known the customs of the university as well as anyone. As far as our evidence goes, it appears that he was right when he called this formula new and inexplicable. The regent-masters themselves had based no extravagant hopes upon it and had provided Master Gilbert with another letter which he produced as soon as he saw that he had failed to induce the bishop to accept the wording of the first. The second formula was in accordance with established tradition, and except for the usual claim that Richard of Clive had been 'elected' as chancellor the letter contained nothing to which Sutton could take exception. He read it, and then followed his usual custom of confirming the new chancellor's appointment 'by special grace'.

Before the name of Richard of Clive's successor could come up for confirmation Sutton was dead.¹ In his dealings with the chancellors and master of Oxford he had shown himself a determined man but a just one. It is probably true that, as Archbishop Pecham said, he exasperated the members of the university past all bearing, but he was not being merely unreasonable. He was unwilling to lose any of his episcopal powers, not for the sake of his own dignity, but because he firmly believed that he would have to answer, at the Day of Judgement, for every one of the rights of his church of Lincoln. This belief made him remarkably efficient as a bishop. He was bound to come into conflict with the university, for he stood for the well-tried, conservative rules of church government, while the *studium* was still a comparatively new and experimental body whose rules of government were less than a century old and whose traditions were still in the process of formation. Sutton did not realise how powerful the university had become. Had he understood, he would still have resisted it if he had thought that his duty as a bishop compelled him to do so. Subsequent history proved, however, that it was very difficult for his successors

¹ His successor Bishop Dalderby did not find the university any less determined to stand on its dignity. See Dalderby's Register, f. 5v-f. 6.

to maintain his attitude of parental authority, and before the end of the fourteenth century the bishops of Lincoln had lost all effective power over the schools of Oxford.

Sutton stood for what he believed to be right. In his relations with the university he took a clear line and followed it logically. He allowed none of his episcopal rights to lapse, yet he put forward no claims which he could not reasonably defend. He picked no private quarrels, and remained on good terms with chancellors whom he had trounced in public. He was a remarkable man.

v

Scattered throughout the register are documents, some of considerable interest, which do not naturally fall within the scope of the three preceding sections of this introduction. It will be convenient to group them together in this section, and if it be objected that a transcript of a papal bull makes a strange bedfellow for a note of the appointment of a bailiff, I can only plead that a thirteenth-century bishop had to do a great deal of work of the most varied kind, and that his register is apt to reflect the multiplicity of his duties.

A bishop was responsible for seeing that the canon law was observed throughout his diocese, and this meant that he had to understand it himself, and make sure that his clergy and people understood it as far as possible. Sutton was a trained canonist, and there is plenty of evidence that he knew his law well and enforced it with determination. The clergy of the diocese were examined, before ordination and again before they were instituted to benefices, not only in morals but also in *sciencia*, and *sciencia* meant, among other things, a reasonable familiarity with the ordinary precepts of canon law. (An unusual or difficult case could always be referred to the bishop.) Both clerics and laymen frequently got into trouble for breaking the decrees of the great councils of Western Christendom, such as the Fourth Lateran Council or the Second Council of Lyons, as well as those of such formal assemblies of the English clergy as the Council of Oxford, held in 1222, or that of Lambeth held in 1281. It may therefore be assumed that such decrees were widely known throughout the diocese. In fact, Sutton assumed them to be universally known. He made no allowance for ignorance of the law except in cases where a complex legal process had to be carried out by people with no special training; for example, when elections were held in small religious houses, usually although not invariably nunneries, he would sometimes excuse the electors from the consequences of a slight technical slip in the procedure on the grounds that a perfect understanding of the law could not be expected in persons of such

'simplicity'.¹ He was chary of granting this grace, however, and any serious mistake, however innocently committed, would cause him to quash the whole election.²

In general, additions to canon law were announced by word of mouth at diocesan synods, and the clergy were then responsible for passing on the relevant information to their parishioners. Since such important information was communicated orally and not by letter, little trace of it has remained in the register. It is quite certain, for example, that the bull *Clericis Laicos* was published in the diocese, since Sutton himself suffered considerable inconvenience rather than disobey it, but neither the text of this bull nor any general mandate ordering the clergy to observe it and publish it to their congregations is given by Scalleby. Such papal bulls and letters as have been preserved in the register are either dispensations granted to private individuals³ or documents of a strictly local or temporary validity. When Sutton received such missives he sent copies of them, with a covering letter, to the appropriate people. A bull forbidding unauthorised persons to wear a habit indistinguishable from that of the Dominicans was sent for publication to the Archdeacon of Northampton, together with a letter in which Sutton said that he understood that such false Dominicans had been causing trouble and scandal in the archdeaconry, by preaching and begging for alms while they were known to frequent unsuitable and disgraceful places, not without sinister suspicion.⁴ Boniface VIII's announcement of his own election to the papacy was circulated throughout the diocese,⁵ as were a mandate authorising the Hospitallers to collect money for the defence of the kingdom of Cyprus and to recoup the losses which they had suffered while trying to maintain a foothold in the Holy Land,⁶ and another ordering the churches of the Franciscans to be protected.⁷ Other bulls were noted in the register and kept for reference among the bishop's archives, among them the quinquennially renewed grace giving Sutton the right to delegate the task of reconciling desecrated churches,⁸ and copies of the letters of protection, granted to the Bishop of London, against excommunication by any judge-delegate of the papal curia.⁹ The distinction between bulls which were simply mentioned in the register and those which were copied in full lay in the fact that whereas a bull sent directly to a bishop could be filed in his treasury, where it was perfectly safe and might be inspected when necessary, one sent to a person other than the bishop naturally remained in the hands of its recipient unless he wished to deposit it with the bishop for safe-keeping. Sometimes, as when a privilege was issued to enable a religious order to collect

¹ L.R.S. 39, p. 124.

³ Register, f. 48^v-f. 49, p. 197, and f. 143^v.

⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 122. ⁶ *Ibid.*, f. 197^v-f. 198.

⁸ *Ibid.*, f. 44, p. 178, and f. 159-159^v.

² *Ibid.*, pp. 65-6.

⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 160^v.

⁷ *Ibid.*, f. 206.

⁹ *Ibid.*, f. 59-59^v.

money in the diocese, the bishop would wish to have a copy for the purpose of reference. Private dispensations were often recorded in the register at the request of their owners, who wanted to have a second line of defence in case the original document were lost.

Letters from the papal curia were brought to the bishop in various ways. People who had received provisions, dispensations or certificates of absolution generally brought their own. Documents of more general interest were carried by papal nuncios,¹ or by the bishop's proctors or their servants.² Some were enclosed in mandates sent by the Archbishop of Canterbury.³ At times interesting diplomatic details are given. When the bishop inspected dispensations he looked carefully to see if any words had been cancelled or scraped out.⁴ There is a curious story of a canon of Markby whose prior had persuaded him that he had deleted two words, '*coram eo*', in a papal bull and had therefore automatically incurred the sentence of excommunication pronounced against all those who falsified documents drawn up in the papal chancery. The canon (who must have been completely under the influence of his prior) allowed himself to accept the suggestion that he had in fact mutilated the document, and therefore 'abstained for a long time from divine service, although he could not recollect having done such a thing'. At last it occurred to him to look at the manuscript, where he found no trace of erasure.⁵ A number of dispensations, among them a privilege granted to the Hospitallers, had their seals appended on threads of hemp.⁶ This diplomatic detail is interesting, because it was the usual practice for the papal chancery to seal 'letters of grace' with threads of silk, reserving hemp for 'letters of justice'. A dispensation issued by Nicholas IV to Richard de Baumfeld was 'sealed with the true leaden *bull*a on threads of red and yellow silk mixed according to the custom of the Roman curia'.⁷

The preaching of the crusade in 1292 was undertaken on papal instructions, although the actual mandate has not been preserved in the register. The commission to Geoffrey de Vezano, a clerk of the papal camera, empowering him to collect the crusading dues in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland has, however, been carefully recorded, probably because a man whose duty it was to collect taxes in the pope's name was not in a particularly safe or happy position in England unless his credentials were known to be supported by the local bishop.⁸ Scalleby gives in the register an interesting list of articles, dealing with crusaders and crusading dues, about which enquiries were to be made throughout the diocese. Great stress is laid upon the importance of raising money, a fact which suggests that the promoters of the crusade wanted

¹ Register, f. 38^v, p. 156.

² *Ibid.*, f. 37^v, p. 153, and f. 48, p. 194.

³ *Ibid.*, f. 58^v.

⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 143^v.

⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 137^v-f. 138.

⁶ *Ibid.*, f. 197^v.

⁷ *Ibid.*, f. 182^v.

⁸ Compare Matthew Paris, *Chronica Majora*, ed. H. R. Luard (R.S.), III, pp. 481-3.

a trained fighting force of professional soldiers, '*solidarii*', to support the Hospitallers in their efforts to recover Acre. Penitents bidden to go on Crusade were allowed to send a soldier in their place if they paid his expenses. In the course of his enquiry the bishop was to find out the names of those who had taken the Cross, and whether they had actually set out, determine what had happened to gifts and legacies assigned to the crusading funds, demand satisfaction from those who had incurred sentences of suspension or excommunication on account of failure to pay, and grant dispensations to those who had rashly taken the Cross when they were 'altogether unsuitable and unfit to go to the Holy Land'.¹ The last provision is particularly interesting and sensible. The armies which had set out upon the earlier crusades had suffered exceedingly from a plethora of enthusiastic and unmanageable non-combatants, aged people longing to die in Jerusalem, nuns, court ladies accompanying the wife of a king such as Louis VII, and unfortunate wives who gave birth to babies while the army was on the march or hard-pressed by a Muslim attack.² From the time of the Fourth Crusade onwards some attempt was made to restrict the practice of going on these expeditions to fighting men and to such women as Louis IX's wife Marguerite and Edward I's wife Eleanor of Castile, whose rank was so exalted that they could hardly be forced to stay at home against their wishes, while their spirit was equal to any emergency. Sutton's attempt to rally suitable crusaders from the diocese of Lincoln had little practical result, for Edward I never set out for Palestine. His crusading days were long past, and the fall of Acre remained unavenged.

One or two of Sutton's letters to the pope throw an interesting light upon contemporary history. In 1294 he wrote giving his testimony in favour of the canonisation of Thomas de Cantilupe, formerly Bishop of Hereford, 'a man born of noble stock, who did not cease from his youth up to make himself noble in character, . . . for whom the Lord has deigned to work many miracles'.³ The right of canonisation was by this time reserved to the pope, but local testimony was required in order to establish a candidate's right to be considered. In 1297 a letter of a very different kind went to Boniface VIII,⁴ who had provided John de Colonna (one of the few members of that family with whom he remained on good terms) to a prebend in Lincoln Cathedral. Sutton professed himself ready to obey the mandate in spite of the fact that the church of Lincoln was, according to him, full of unworthy men who held their prebends by papal provision, but he inquired how he was supposed to reconcile Boniface's orders with the sentence of excommunication

¹ Register, f. 38v-f. 39v, pp. 157-9.

² The chronicles of the crusades are full of piteous stories about such people. See especially the chronicles of Raymond of Agiles, Fulcher of Chartres and William of Tyre.

³ Register, f. 109v.

⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 176-176v.

which, so he understood, the pope had more recently published against the whole house of Colonna. The political situation at Rome was apt to change quickly, and Sutton had no wish to find himself in trouble for granting favours to an excommunicated person. In any case, he added with his usual outspokenness where matters of ecclesiastical discipline were concerned, papal provisions were doing the church of Lincoln no good.

As a suffragan of the province of Canterbury, Sutton was bound by his oath of canonical obedience to obey the mandates of the archbishop even when, as he said quite candidly, he did not approve of them.¹ Such mandates usually dealt with general matters of discipline and organisation, such as the excommunication of certain types of disorderly person or the arrangements for days of prayer or thanksgiving.² An injunction about the Cross of York is interesting. At the time of the conversion of England Gregory I had laid it down that the archbishops of the southern and northern provinces were to take precedence in order of seniority of consecration,³ and although the regular precedence of Canterbury had been firmly established in the time of Lanfranc⁴ there was still a perpetual dispute between the two archbishops as to whether the Archbishop of York was entitled to have his cross carried erect before him in the southern province, or whether he should cause it to be lowered as a mark of respect for the Archbishop of Canterbury who was Primate of All England. Pecham ordered Sutton to see that the northern archbishop lowered his cross as he passed through the diocese of Lincoln (which formed part of the southern province), and if he would not do so to pronounce an interdict upon every place in which he stayed. Sutton passed on this somewhat embarrassing duty to his archdeacons.⁵ Although he was too good a canonist not to be an obedient suffragan, Sutton was quite capable of resisting his archbishop if he thought that the rights of his church were at stake, and on occasions he expressed himself forcibly. In the course of a long dispute over the churches of Quinton and Colsterworth, when the official of Canterbury tried to appoint custodians for these parishes, he complained that the official's mandate was injurious to his diocesan authority and to the rights of his own archdeacons, and sent to Rome an appeal which was supported by his dean and chapter.⁶

With his fellow bishops, Sutton's relations were friendly if somewhat limited. He ratified their indulgences and raised no difficulties over granting them licences to hold ordinations in his

¹ Register, f. 155-155v. ² Cambridge M.S., Dd., VII, 6, f. 22v-f. 23.

³ Bede, *Historia Ecclesiastica*, ed. C. Plummer, I, pp. 63-4.

⁴ William of Malmesbury, *Gesta Regum Anglorum*, ed. W. Stubbs (R.S.), II, pp. 349-352.

⁵ Register, f. 39v, p. 160.

⁶ *Ibid.*, f. 21-f. 22v, pp. 86-92. On Pecham's relations with his suffragans, see D. L. Douie, *Archbishop Pecham*, pp. 192-228.

diocese. Except when prevented by illness or much business, he attended the ceremonies of their consecration. He worked amicably with the Bishop of Winchester in his capacity as collector of crusading tenths, and he intervened to protect that bishop's peculiar at Ivinghoe from the encroachments of the Archdeacon of Buckingham.¹ He seems to have been on really friendly terms with John of Monmouth, Bishop of Llandaff, who undertook most of the strenuous work of diocesan administration in the summer of 1299 when Sutton himself was slowly failing in health,² and with Simon de Gandavo, Bishop of Salisbury. On one occasion at least, apart from his somewhat unsuccessful attempt to rally the bishops in their opposition to the taxation of Edward I,³ and his disputes with Archbishop Pecham over sequestrated benefices,⁴ he made himself the spokesman of his fellows. He had been appointed, together with the Bishops of Winchester and Salisbury, as judge-delegate of the papacy in the dispute between Edmund Earl of Cornwall and his wife Margaret de Clare, daughter of the Earl of Gloucester. Relations between these two had become very unhappy, and Margaret accused her husband of neglect and of such cruel treatment that she feared for her life. (The fault was probably not entirely on his side, for the quick tempers of the de Clares were notorious.) In 1290 Archbishop Pecham evidently felt that the case had already dragged on too long—it was, he declared, not only a great peril to the souls of the people immediately concerned but it had aroused such popular indignation that there was ‘danger of a sudden perturbation of the whole kingdom, as well as the grave scandal which has arisen among the clergy and people’. He therefore ordered the bishops in whose diocese the earl held lands to command him to return to his wife and to treat her with proper affection. If he refused he was to be excommunicated. Sutton held no brief for unkind husbands but he retorted, in the names of himself and his colleagues, that Pecham's action was unwarranted while the case was *sub judice*. The Archbishop of Canterbury might be Primate of All England, but he had, in Sutton's opinion, no business to interfere in disputes which his suffragans were engaged in settling with proper legal authority granted by the papacy. He told the archbishop that he refused to publish any such sentence against Edmund of Cornwall, and appealed to the pope.⁵

The register contains a number of copies of letters, charters and agreements, some in the form of cyrographs, written or granted by people other than the bishop and inspected by him for the purpose of certification. It was a fairly common practice to submit valuable document to a bishop in order to obtain his *inspeximus*, or official guarantee that he had inspected the document and found

¹ Register, f. 162v.

² *Ibid.*, f. 207–207v.

³ See above, pp. xix–xx.

⁴ Register, f. 17–17v, and f. 22. See also D. L. Douie, *op. cit.* pp. 223–4.

⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 7v–f. 8, pp. 33–6.

it to be correct and genuine, and to ensure that a copy, preserved in his register, would remain in extremely safe keeping. For the most part these entries are concerned with the lands and revenues of churches or of chantries,¹ and have a strictly local significance, but one or two are of wider interest. There is a copy of a grant made by S. Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, freeing the monks of Louth Park from the payment of pedage and all other customary dues of the same sort in the bishop's manors.² A charming letter from S. Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, inspected no doubt at the request of the monks of S. Neot's who were jealous for the reputation of the saint whose relics they guarded, describes a visit paid to the shrine of S. Neot by S. Anselm when he was still Abbot of Bec. 'I asked for the shrine which is called *feretrum*,' says S. Anselm, 'and there I found the bones of the holy and precious confessor Neot, and I straightway put them back in the same shrine . . . having taken a little bit which I have kept with me for remembrance and veneration of the said saint, and I locked up the shrine carefully with the bones inside and took the key with me to Bec,³ where it is preserved carefully to this day. And I beseech all those to whom God will give the chance . . . to help to build the church of the holy confessor . . . so that God may reward each one of them in eternal life, and the said saint may intercede for them in God's presence according to what he knows will be best for them. And we, according to our powers, beseech God as suppliants that He will grant His blessing, and the absolution of their sins, to all those who give any help to the said church.'⁴

A considerable amount of space in the register is taken up by official letters appointing proctors to represent the bishop in lawsuits carried on in the papal curia or in the Court of the Arches. These letters, probably drawn up by one of the bishop's notaries public, are in strict common form. The proctors were generally chosen from among the canons of the cathedral or the household clerks of the bishop, and for business in the Court of the Arches appointments were made *ad hoc*. Sending a proctor to Rome was a more serious and expensive matter altogether, and Sutton found that his interests could best be served by keeping a responsible man at the papal curia and communicating with him by means of messengers. Nothing is known of the proctors appointed between 1280 and 1289. Master Stephen of Tathwell, canon of Lincoln, went to Italy in 1290,⁵ and was appointed official proctor of the Bishop of Lincoln a few months later.⁶ He was still in Rome in 1295, when his credentials were renewed in a letter directed to Boniface VIII.⁷ During the winter of 1296-7 he went to Basle for some reason which is unknown and there fell ill. His brother, William of Tathwell,

¹ Register, 176-f. 177, and f. 49v-f. 51, pp. 201-6. ² *Ibid.*, f. 148.

³ S. Neot's was a cell of the Abbey of Bec. ⁴ Register, f. 122v-f. 123.

⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 14, p. 63.

⁶ *Ibid.*, f. 17v, p. 79.

⁷ *Ibid.*, f. 128.

went out to visit him, and Sutton made careful arrangements for his safety on the journey, writing to various merchants in order to ensure that he had plenty of money,¹ and supplying him with a general letter of recommendation and a testimonial to the legitimacy of his birth,² which seems a surprising requirement for foreign travel, but which was probably designed to be useful if Stephen should die and his brother should have to take over the duties of executor. Stephen did in fact die before William reached him.³ He was succeeded in his office of proctor to the curia by Master Robert of Warsop, formerly one of the bishop's chaplains, who set out from Lincoln in July 1297 laden with official documents and supplied with instructions to look for others in a box which Stephen was believed to have left in Rome.⁴ Master Robert was still at the curia in 1299, for in April of that year a messenger was sent to him with some more documents, and arrangements were made for him to receive a hundred marks, paid through a firm of Italian bankers.⁵

Other appointments were from time to time made by the bishop and recorded in the register. The people appointed included the official of the diocese,⁶ archdeacons, curators of vacant archdeaconries, penitentiaries, sequestrators and such lay officials as bailiffs and stewards on the bishop's estates. The records of such appointments are generally calendared and not given in full, since there was little reason to suppose that anyone would question them. It is interesting to notice that the formula for appointing a bailiff or steward appears to have differed very little from that ordering the induction of a prior of a religious house or the warden of a hospital.⁷ Keepers of records in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries did not differentiate at all clearly between one kind of activity and another. The King's wardrobe could be used equally well to pay the expenses of a campaign against the Scots or to disburse half-a-mark for the sovereign's private almsgiving. In the same way no clear distinction seems to have been drawn, so far as the formulae went, between the bishop's orders to induct, which he made in his official capacity as ruler of the diocese, and the appointments which he made in his capacity as a feudal tenant-in-chief. Scalleby certainly saw nothing unusual in the fact that matters relating to estates held in lay fee should appear in the register.

Another appointment which concerned Sutton personally as well as the diocese of Lincoln was that of notary-public attached to the bishop's household. In 1291 the bishop, who was already employing one notary named William Johns or Johnson of Anlaby,⁸ was empowered by the pope to appoint two more, on the grounds that legal contracts and documents drawn up in the diocese of

¹ Register, f. 154^v-f. 155.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*, f. 156^v.

⁴ *Ibid.*, f. 163.

⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 200.

⁶ *Ibid.*, f. 112.

⁷ Compare *ibid.* f. 181^v with L.R.S. 39, p. 146.

⁸ His notarial mark appears several times among the records preserved in the Muniments of the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln. MSS. D. II, 62, (1) 3-5.

Lincoln were often rendered defective through lack of persons who were skilled in drafting. (No reflection upon William's work seems to have been intended; he continued in the bishop's service for some years. It seems probable that in or about 1290 he lost a colleague whose name is unknown to us, and that the burden of all the notarial work was too much for him.) Nicholas IV safeguarded the rights of the papacy by sending a copy of an oath, stressing the duty of fidelity to the pope, which all notaries were bound to take before they entered upon their duties.¹ At first Sutton found only one suitable candidate, John of Ferriby. (It is interesting to observe that all his notaries seem to have been drawn from local families.) He continued to look about for another and in 1293 his choice fell upon John of Clipston. After quoting the pope's authority for the grant and mentioning the fact that John had successfully passed an examination and had produced excellent testimonials, Sutton proceeded to grant him the office of notary in the presence of a distinguished company of witnesses. The actual words used by the bishop in this ceremony, as upon a few other formal occasions, are quoted:—'In the name of God, amen. Since full permission has formerly been granted by the Lord Pope Nicholas IV of blessed memory to us, Oliver, by divine permission Bishop of Lincoln, to grant the office of notary to two suitable persons according to a certain form contained in the letters of the said lord pope, and we granted this office of notary only to John of Ferriby who was found to be sufficiently suitable, we do now, wishing to fulfil all the power granted to us in this matter, grant by these presents, according to the said authority, the said office of notary to you John of Clipston, clerk in minor orders, of our diocese, whom we have found suitable for the said office in learning and other needful things by a careful examination, and we have first received from you an oath upon the holy Gospels of God, according to the form laid down in the said letter, that you will perform this duty prudently and faithfully, and that application may be made to you in time of need for those things which pertain to your office.'²

Finally, a few documents included in the register concern the private affairs of the bishop. In May 1291 he announced to his household that he had made his will, and told Master Jocelyn of Kirmington to seal it, 'which said Master Jocelyn immediately appended the great seal of that bishop and put the small seal upon the back'.³ In January 1292 Sutton made another will, and the

¹ Register, f. 42, p. 170. For a parallel case, see Reg. Pal. Dunelm, ed. T. D. Hardy (R.S.), I, p. 564. This latter appointment was made by the Bishop of Durham in 1313.

² *Ibid.*, f. 85-85v. 103

³ *Ibid.*, f. 25, p. 130. 'magnum sigillum ipsius episcopi appendit et parvum sigillum in dorso apposuit.' The small seal was probably placed on the reverse side of the great seal, but the text would allow for the possibility that it was placed on the dorse of the parchment. From the text it is clear that although the great seal was appended the document was closed.

great seal was affixed (there is no mention of the small seal on this occasion) 'while the bishop was sitting in his chamber after vespers.'¹ This document was left patent, for it was at some later date authenticated by the seal of Archbishop Pecham.² In May 1294, 'sitting in the chamber of his clerks about the middle of the time of recreation' Sutton again produced the will of 1292 and read it aloud, declaring that he confirmed it 'with some changes and additions which are contained in this codicil'. He then ordered John of Ferriby the notary to draw up an account of the witnessing of the codicil in proper legal form.³ In 1296, however, he changed his mind again and had a new will drawn up, which he caused his household to witness and Master Jocelyn to seal with the great seal.⁴ This must have been the will which became valid after his death, for there is no mention of a later one. His executors were Master Thomas of Sutton, Master Jocelyn of Kirmington, Master Walter of Wootton, William of Stockton, John Maunsel, Hugh of Normanton and Robert of Kilworth. They discharged their duties efficiently and without disagreement, for probate was granted as early as March 19, 1300.⁵

The bishop also made occasional arrangements about his plans for building or for the ordinary domestic affairs of his household, buying wood⁶ or obtaining a guarantee of safe-conduct for a boat coming from Henley to London with a cargo of goods needed by the household for a stay in London during the time of Parliament and Convocation.⁷

Oliver Sutton and John de Scalleby between them have left us a remarkably fine example of a bishop's register. Both were clear-headed men with a firm grasp of the principles of diocesan administration, and both had the saving qualities of charity and humour. Scalleby must have been one of the ablest registrars who ever served a bishop, and Sutton himself was a good spouse to his church of Lincoln. He does not stand quite in the company of the greatest men of the English episcopate, S. Chad, S. Wulfstan, S. Hugh and Robert Grosseteste, 'those most splendid lights of God, whose memory is pleasantness and blessing'. Rather he was a type of the good bishop who has contributed so much to the Christian tradition in England, the man who gave up his life to his diocese, and did his work steadily, honestly, humanely and with unending patience until he died.

¹ Register, f. 45, p. 182.

² *Ibid.*, f. 101-101v.

³ *Reg. Rob. Winchelsey*, ed. R. Graham (C. and Y. Soc.), pp. 368 and 378.

⁴ Register, f. 30-30v, p. 123.

⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 101.

⁶ *Ibid.*, f. 150v-f. 151.

⁷ *Ibid.*, f. 45, p. 182.

The Rolls and Register of Oliver Sutton, Bishop of Lincoln 1280-1299.

MEMORANDA 1290-1299.

Folio 1.

QUARTODECIMO KALENDAS JUNII DIE SANCTI DUNSTANI ANNO
DOMINI M. CC. NONAGESIMO INCIPIT ANNUS PONTIFICATUS DOMINI
OLIVERI EPISCOPI LINC' UNDECIMUS.

COMMISSIO CURE ARCHIDIACONATUS BUCK'.¹ Commission to
Master Nicholas of Oving (Owyng) to take charge of the
Archdeaconry of Buckingham during the vacancy caused by the
death of Sir Percival de Lavagna. (Lavanna.) Hayes. May 19,
1290.

DATIO CURATORIS RECTORI IMPOTENTI. Commission to John
rector of the church of S. Michael at the North Gate, Oxford, to
act as coadjutor to Master William of Dunham, rector of All Saints',
Oxford, who was incurably ill. Hayes. May 19, 1290.

Oliverus permissione divina Linc' episcopus dilecto in Christo
filio Johanni rectori ecclesie beati Michaelis ad portem australem²
Oxon' salutem , etc. Quia Magister Willelmus rector ecclesie
Omnium Sanctorum loci ejusdem ita corporis debilitate seu gravi
et incurabili infirmitate laborat quod ad curam dicte ecclesie sue
impotens nunc effectus ad sui regimen non sufficit nec suorum , nos
ex officii nostri debito tam ecclesie quam persone providere volentes ,
te prefato rectori ad ejusdem et suorum regimen et ad curam
ecclesie sue tam in temporalibus quam in spiritualibus fideliter
peragendam sub debito juramenti in verbo sacerdotii Archidiacono
Oxon' prestandi coadjutorem duximus deputandum , mandantes
ut in initio administrationis tue inventario [de]³ bonis dicti rectoris
inventis sub fidedignorum [testimoniis] pleno f[acto] in hujusmodi
officio tibi commisso te talem exhibeas quod de administratione
tua cum fueris requisitus congrue valeas respondere et de sollicitudine
tua debeas merito commendari . Datum apud Hese XIII kalendas
Junii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo.

¹ This folio is much worn. A word written after ' Buck ' appears to be ' ipso '.

² *Sic. recte* ' borealem '.

³ The MS. is much worn and the words in brackets are illegible. They have
been supplied from the formula used in other letters of a similar kind in the register.

Commission¹ to William, rector of the mediety of the church of Heyford, to take charge of the other mediety, of which the aforesaid Master William of Dunham was rector. London, Old Temple, May 22, 1290.

Oliverus , etc. , dilecto in Christo filio Willelmo rectori medietatis ecclesie de Heyford' ad pontem salutem , etc. Facta nuperrime nobis fide quod Magister Willelmus de Dunham comportionarius tuus in ecclesia antedicta , necnon et rector Omnium Sanctorum Oxon' , tanta debilitate et infirmitate corporis est depressus quod in beneficia sua nec seipsum cum familia sua regere se² potest , per curatorem juxta testimonium fidedignorum ydoneum ex officii nostri debito eisdem² ecclesie providimus et persone . Cum igitur de regimine portionis quam dictus Magister Willelmus in dicta ecclesia de Heyford per[cepit]² consimiliter sit curandum , nos attendentes laudabile testimonium quod tibi tam de fidelitate quam de industria perhibetur, quodque melius et facilius ac comodius ad opus memorati infirmi per te in dicta ecclesia ut teneris residentem quam per alium² regi potest , te sepedicto rectori sub debito juramenti a te super hoc Archidiacono Oxon' prestandi quantum ad regimen ipsius portionis et curam tenore presentium damus et constituimus adiutorem , mandantes ut in initio administrationis tue inventario de bonis dicti rectoris inventis sub fidedignorum testimoniis pleno facto in hujusmodi officio tibi commisso te talem exhibeas quod de administratione tua cum fueris requisitus congrue valeas respondere , et de sollicitudine tua debeas merito commendari . Datum apud Vetus Templum London' XI kalendas Junii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo.

PRO REEDIFICATIONE ECCLESIE MALBERTHORP'. To the Archdeacon of Lincoln, ordering him to allow Robert of Waddingham to collect the tithes and offerings from the parishioners of S. Peter's, Mablethorpe, and use the money for the repair of the church which had lately been overwhelmed by the sea. London, Old Temple, May 22, 1290.

Oliverus , etc. , Archidiacono Linc' salutem etc . Cum ad studium episcopale pertineat te² providere ut ecclesie quotiens opus fuerit reparentur, et ad statum debitum reducantur , nos attendentes quod ad reedificationem ecclesie beati Petri de Malberthorp' quam inundatio superhabundans seu vorago marina nuper absorbit seu prorsus consumpsit pauperes parochianos loci ejusdem relictos sufficere non posse, alio remedio congruo nullatenus occurrente ad presens , de consensu Roberti de Waddingham capellani nobis ad dictam ecclesiam presentati salvo etiam in omnibus jure patroni ejusdem , duximus ordinandum , quod decime tam majores quam minores una cum oblationibus dictorum parochianorum et aliis

¹ Under the same heading as the last entry.

² Illegible.

proventibus hujusmodi ad constructionem ipsius ecclesie vacantis , stipendiis capellani ministraturi eisdem parochianis et aliorum ministrorum ac aliis oneribus ordinariis dumtaxat exceptis , donec aliter provideremus , totaliter convertantur . Hujus vero donationis executionem dicto Roberto qui providebit ut prefatis parochianis ministrentur divina sicut decet , certa consideratione fideliter committentes . Quocirca vobis mandamus quatinus eundem Robertum decimas et proventus prefatas licite colligere et illos qui superfuerint deductis necessariis¹ ad constructionem prefatam convertere in forma predicta libere permittatis salvo sibi in omnibus jure suo ratione presentationis suprafate pro tempore oportuno . Valet . Datum apud Vetus Templum London' XI kalendas Junii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo et pontificatus nostre undecimo.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Master William of Louth, subdeacon, canon of Lincoln, to receive the orders of deacon and priest. Place not given. June 21, 1290.

Folio 1^v.

LICENCIA RECONCILIANDI ECCLESIAM. Licence to Philip, rector of Branston, to have his church, which had been desecrated by bloodshed, reconciled by any Catholic bishop. Brickendon. May 28, 1290.

DISPENSATIO SUPER DEFECTU NATALIUM. Dispensation for bastardy granted to Thomas le Archer of Billingham. Brickendon, May 28, 1290.

DISPENSATIO SUPER [RECEPT]²IONE ORDINUM SINE [DIMISSORIIS]² Dispensation for ordination to the diaconate by the Bishop of Norwich without letters dimissory, granted to William of S. Neot's. Brickendon, May 28, 1290.

COMMISSIO MAGISTRO R. DE PIRITON'. Commission to Master Richard of Purton of the office of sequestrator in the Archdeaconry of Buckingham. Brickendon, May 28, 1290.

INDULGENCIA. Grant of twenty days' indulgence to all confessed and contrite persons who should contribute to the building of the belfry at Wheathampstead, together with a ratification of all indulgences which had been or should be granted in the same cause. The grant was to be effective for five years. Wheathampstead, May 27,³ 1290.

[DE]⁴ REPARATIONE ECCLESIE [BEATI]⁴ PETRI DE MALBER[THORP']⁴
To Robert of Waddingham, ordering him to collect the tithes

¹ Illegible.

² The words in brackets are illegible.

³ *Sic.*, probably a mistake for May 29.

⁴ MS. torn.

and offerings from the parishioners of S. Peter's, Mablethorpe, and use the money for the repair of the church which had lately been overwhelmed by the sea. Wheathampstead, May 29, 1290.

O permissione divina Linc' episcopus dilecto in Christo filio Roberto de Wadingham capellano salutem , etc . Cum ad studium episcopale pertineat sollicite providere , ut ecclesie quotiens opus fuerit reparentur et ad statum debitum reducantur , nos attendentes quod ad reedificationem ecclesie beati Petri de Malberthorp' quam inundatio superhabundans seu vorago marina nuper absorbit seu prorsus consumpsit . pauperes parochianos loci ejusdem relictos sufficere non posse, alio remedio nullatenus occurrente ad presens , de consensu tuo , qui ad ipsam ecclesiam nobis presentatus existis , salvo in omnibus jure patroni ejusdem , duximus ordinandum quod decime tam majores quam minores una cum oblationibus dictorum parochianorum et aliis proventibus hujusmodi ad constructionem ipsius ecclesie vacantis , stipendiis capellani ministraturi eisdem parochianis et aliorum ministrorum ac aliis omnibus ordinariis dumtaxat exceptis , donec aliter providerimus totaliter convertantur . De tua igitur circumspectione et industria fiduciam optinentes , hujus ordinationis executionem , salva tibi in omnibus jure tuo ratione presentationis ad dictam ecclesiam pro tempore oportuno , tibi certa consideratione fiducialiter committimus per presentes , ita quod premissa fideliter exequaris , et prefatis parochianis divina sicut decet facias ministrari . Datum apud Whethamsted IIII kalendas Junii pontificatus nostri undecimo.

DISSISSORIE. Letters dimissory to William le Ffu of Hannington (Hanington'), acolyte, to receive all holy orders. Wheathampstead, May 29, 1290.

INDULGENCIA. To the Archdeacons of Bedford and Buckingham or their officials, telling them to give facilities for the collection of money for the repair of Hockliffe Hospital which had been burnt, and granting twenty days' indulgence to all contributors. The indulgence was to be effective for five years, but contributions were not to be made at the expense of the building-fund for the cathedral. Edlesborough, May 31, 1290.

II kalendas Maii anno XI apud Edelesberg' scriptum fuit Archidiaconis Bed' et Buck' ¹vel eorum officialibus¹ quod quotienscumque nuncii Hospitalis de Hockleve incendio consumpti ad eos accederent pro fidelium elemosinis colligendis eos benigne admitterent , et ipsorum negotium per capellanos locorum diebus dominicis et festivis intra missarum solempnia in singulis ecclesiis archidiaconatum suorum populo facerent exponi et quod collectum foret

¹. . . . ¹ interlined.

eis integraliter liberari . Concessit etiam episcopus omnibus subvenientibus reedificationi dicti hospitalis XX dies indulgencie , hoc addito quod hujusmodi concessio ultra quinquennium non valeret , et quod per premissa negocium fabrice ecclesie Linc' minime impediretur.

CESSIO PRIORISSE DE MERLAWE. Note of the resignation of Agnes of London, prioress of Marlow, and of an injunction to the subprioress and nuns to proceed to the election of her successor without delay. Edlesborough, June 1, 1290.

DISPENSATIO SUPER DEFECTU NATALIUM. Dispensation for bastardy granted to Walter of Stain (Stane) living in Alvescote (Alfescote), acolyte. Notley, June 4, 1290.

DATIO CURATORIS VICARIO IMPOTENTI. Commission to Thomas of Laxton to act as coadjutor to John, vicar of Caddington. Notley, June 4, 1290.

Eisdem die , anno et loco Thomas de Laxinton' capellanus datus fuit coadjutor Johanni vicario ecclesie de Cadindon' impotenti sub forma in casu hujusmodi usitata , et habuit super hoc litteram patentem juxta tenorem ex alia parte folii circa principium contentam pro rectore Omnium Sanctorum Oxon'.

COMMISSIO MAGISTERII DE [HEYE]NINGES¹. To Master Thomas de Perariis, canon of Lincoln, committing to him the office of master of the convent of Heynings. Notley, June 4, 1290.

O. etc , Magistro Th. de Perariis canonico ecclesie nostre de Linc' salutem , etc . De vestra circumspectione [*folio 2*]² et industria plurimum confidentes curam et administrationem domus monialium de Heyeninges et omnium spectantium ad illam quantum ad officium magistri pertinet ad devotam supplicationem priorisse et conventus loci predicti vobis committimus per presentes , vobis in remissionem peccatorum injungentes quatinus hujusmodi officium efficaciter suscipientes in hac parte taliter vos geratis quod pro sollicitudine vestra a deo premium reportetis . Valete . Datum apud Nuttele II nonas Junii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo et pontificatus nostri undecimo.

RECONCILIATIO CIMITERII. Note that on June 7, 1290, the bishop reconciled the churchyard of Piddington (Pudington') which had been desecrated by bloodshed. The same day, at Higham Ferrars, he gave permission for the church of Newport

¹ MS. torn.

² From this point to the end of the letter the handwriting is that of the scribe B.

Pagnell, likewise desecrated, to be reconciled by any Catholic bishop.

PROCESSUS CONTRA MONACHOS DE TYKFORD¹ Account of a visitation of Tickford Priory, in the course of which the bishop ordered John de Scalleby to excommunicate upon the spot three monks, Peter de Blays the subprior, John de Charters and Maurice de Tours, who refused to submit to the visitation. Tickford, June 7, 1290.

Commission to Master Walter of Wootton, canon of Lincoln, to proceed against the said monks. Olney, June 7, 1290.

A note of Master Walter's proceedings against them. Newport Pagnell. June 7, 1290.²

Memorandum quod III nonas Junii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo scriptum fuit per episcopum priori et monachis de Tykeford' juxta Neuportpaynel quod idem episcopus die Martii proximo sequente, scilicet VII idus Junii anno domini supradicto, ad domum de Tykeford' causa visitationis tam in capite quam in membris inibi faciende proposuit declinare, mandans eisdem priori et monachis quod hujusmodi visitationem susceperent ut deceret, confratres suos si qui absentes forent protinus revocarent et alia que ad visitationis spectant officium prepararent. Quo die Martis adveniente, dictus episcopus ad domum de Tykeford' prescriptam personaliter declinavit, proposito ante omnia ad populum verbo dei solemniter, capitulum domus ejusdem intravit prioremque et monachos ipsius domus tunc domi existentes coram se in capitulum vocari fecit, coram quo dictus prior Simon nomine statim personaliter comparuit ad suscipiendum visitationem predictum offerens se paratum. Tribus commonachis suis tunc domi existentibus, scilicet fratribus Petro de Blays suppriori, Johanne de Charters et Mauricio de Turonis in ostio capituli stantibus et se ingredi visitationemque predictam subire nolle expressius asserentibus licet ut hoc facerent sepius moniti fuissent per episcopum et pluries requisiti, deinde dicto priore super [statum]³ domus sue tam in spiritualibus quam in temporalibus juxta morem in visitationibus observatam requisito, et quod sibi videbatur expedire pro exoneracione consciencie sue deponente, dictus episcopus ponens verba sua in ore Johannis de Scalleby presbiteri clerici sui familiaris, in dictos fratres Petrum, Johannem et Mauricium monitos ut premittitur et eidem quo ad suscepcionem visitationis parere recusantes expresse majoris excommunicationis sententia fulminavit protinus sub hac forma:— In dei nomine, amen. Cum nos Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln'

¹ The words 'de Tykford' have been inserted by a later hand.

² Dates *sic*, but it is clear from the text that the two last must be wrong.

³ Rather illegible.

episcopus notorie fuerimus in possessione juris vel quasi visitandi jure diocesano prioratum de Tykeford' juxta Neuportpaynel nostre diocesis , nonnullique predecessores nostri in consimili possessione visitandi dictum prioratum notorie fuerint , simusque in presenciarum notorie in hujusmodi possessione tionis¹ faciendo quam frater Simon prior dicti prioratus coram nobis nunc personaliter constitutus palam verbo et facto notorie suscipit et agnoscit , nos ad officium visitationis in dicto loco faciendo quantum in ipso est reverenter ac obedienter admittendo examinationemque super contingentibus statum prioratus predicti in capite et in membris , ac in spiritualibus et temporalibus in capitulo dicti prioratus promptius subeundo , et alia plenius faciendo que per nos requiruntur ab eo sicut vos hic congregati vidistis et videtis aperte , ac fratres Petrus de Blays , Johannes de Charters et Mauricius de Turonis monachi prioratus antedicti presentes a capite suo dicto priore velut indocti filii et desipientes se temere dividentes , nos , officium nostrum ac visitationem nostram suscipere penitus contradicant et non sine graui offensa et contemptu manifesto tam inobedienter quam rebelliter recusent injuste licet ut nos et visitationem nostram recipiant pluries requirantur et suaviter moncantur , nos hujusmodi offensam , contemptum et inobedienciam juxta apostolicam sententiam ex debito officii nostri censura qua convenit punire parati , dictos fratres Petrum , Johannem et Mauricium pro offensa sua et contemptu suo ut premittitur commissis auctoritate pontificali excommunicamus , anathematizamus , et a liminibus sancte matris ecclesie procul pellimus et artius sequestramus , et tanquam tales vitari debere decernimus et pronunciamus , donec beneficium absolutionis in forma juris meruerint optinere , omnes et singulos fratribus Petro , Johanne et Mauricio supradictis in sua rebellione opem , consilium vel favorem prestantes consimili excommunicationis sententia innodantes . Acta fuerunt hec in presenciam magistrorum Johannis le Flemeng', Gocelini de Kirnington', Walteri de Wutton' canonicorum Lincoln', ac dominorum² [folio 2v] Roberti de Thorp', Willelmi de Stolton',³ Rogeri de Sixil , Roberti de Kibbewrth' et Johannis de Scalleby clericorum episcopi , prioris de Bradewelle et cujusdam commonachi sui , fratrum Walteri de Giddinge et Simonis de Wlle canonicorum de Stanle , Decani de Neuportpaynel et vicarii parochialis ecclesie ejusdem ville , Johannis de Bayton' marescalli episcopi , Johannis de Musters , Roberti de Saundebey , Galfridi de Sancto Quintino , Ricardi Cissoris armigerorum episcopi et aliorum quam plurimum existentium tunc ibidem . Deinde injunxit episcopus priori quod duos commonachos suos tunc absentes quam citius posset revocaret , injunxit etiam decano loci tunc presenti quod quam cito constaret sibi de reditu eorundem , assignavit eis certum diem in prioratu predicto ad suscipiendum visitationem episcopi et premuniret episcopum de assignatione

¹ Illegible.

² Bis.

³ Sic, recte 'Stokton'.

diei , et super hoc scriptum fuit Officiali Bukk' quod dictos fratres Petrum , Johannem et Mauricium sic excommunicatos in singulis ecclesiis Archidiaconatus Buck' singulis diebus dominicis et festivis usque ad lapsum XL dierum faceret publice nunciari et etiam inhiberi ne quis preterquam in casibus a jure concessis communicare presumeret cum eisdem . Postea vero audito quod dicti monachi contempta excommunicatione predicta immiscuerant se divinis , exivit quedam commissio sub hac forma :—O. permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilecto in Christo filio magistro Waltero de Wutton' canonico ecclesie nostre Lincoln' salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Auribus nostris nuper insonuit quod fratres Petrus de Blays supprior , Johannes de Charters et Mauricius de Turonis monachi prioratus de Tykeford' juxta Newportpaynel , pro suis excessibus et contemptibus manifestis per nos publice excommunicati , divina prophanare postea publice temere presumpserunt , nos vero de hujusmodi contemptu clavium ecclesie certiorari et illum debita animadversione plecti cupientes , ad inquirendum si necesse fuerit de temeritate pretacta et ulterius procedendum , statuendum et decernendum contra hujusmodi presumptores prout melius esse decreveritis faciendum , necnon ad inquirendum de execratione cimiterii vel ecclesie parochialis de Newportpaynel per extractionem sanguinis inibi commissa ut dicitur , vobis vices nostras cum coercitionis canonice potestate committimus per presentes , mandantes quatinus de inventis et processu vestro in hac parte certificetis apertius tempore opportuno . Datum apud Olneyam VII idus Junii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo et pontificatus nostre undecimo.—Qui quidem commissarii inveniunt audita esse vera , contra dictos monachos processit prout in pronunciatione ipsius que sequitur continetur :—In dei nomine amen . Cum venerabilis pater O. dei gracia Lincoln' episcopus ad prioratum de Tykeford' juxta Newportpaynel Lincoln' diocesis causa visitationis inibi tam in capite quam in membris jure diocesano faciente nuper declinans et ipsam visitationem actualiter exercens , quosdam monachos dicti prioratus , videlicet fratres Petrum de Blays suppriorem , Johannem de Charters et Mauricium de Turonis pro suis contemptibus et manifestis offensis majoris excommunicationis sententia innodavit et solempniter anathematizaverit justicia suadente , hujusmodi sententiam et anathema in singulis ecclesiis parochialibus Archidiaconatus Buck' mandans solempniter publicari , que in partibus de Tykeford' et alibi publica sunt et etiam manifesta , ac dictus frater Mauricius non obstantibus excommunicatione et anathemate supradictis divina celebrare immo quantum in ipso fuit verius prophanare publice presumpserit, cui commonachi sui Petrus et Johannes predicti astiterunt et dampnabiliter ministrarunt , in crimine participantes eidem , quam quidem celebrationem dictus frater Mauricius et assistenciam et ministrationem fratres Petrus et Johannes prefati coram nobis Waltero

de Wutton' canonico Lincoln' dicti patris in hac parte commissario speciali sedentibus pro tribunali, in spiritu superbie debachando sunt confessi, preter hoc quod culpa eorundem in hoc notoria existit, nos hujusmodi contemptum clavium ecclesie debita animadversione censura que convenit plectere cupientes, advertentes quod dictos monachos tam per verba sua quam gestus suos prefato patri in hiis que ad officium suum spectant notorie rebelles existere, nec se a divinorum celebratione et auditione velle sicut asserunt abstinere, dictos fratres Mauricium Petrum et Johannem irregulares esse ex causa pretacta pronunciamus, altare Beate Virginis in quo dictus frater Mauricius missam scienter celebrare presumpsit sic ligatus, sicut coram nobis apertius recognovit, ex variis causis nos ad hoc inducentibus demoliendum fore decernentes. Vasa et vestimenta sacra quibus idem frater Mauricius in dicta celebratione scienter utebatur, donec dictus pater de hoc aliter duxerit ordinandum, suspendentes ad presens, ecclesiam dicte prioratus et loca alia ejusdem ne inibi dictis excommunicatis presentibus celebrentur divina ecclesiastica interdicto artius supponendo, in contrarium scienter et temere venientes ex nunc in genere majoris excommunicationis sententia innodando, inhibendo etiam sub pena consimilis excommunicationis ne quis cum eisdem preterquam in casibus premissis aliquo modo communicare presumat. Datum in prioratu de Neuportp' VII idus Junii anno domini supradicto, presentibus fratre Simone ejusdem domus priore, Decano de Neuportpaynel, Johanne decano de Clopham, Willelmo vicario ecclesie de Neuportpaynel, Martino Gregory capellano suo, Ada magistro hospitalis juxta pontem de Neuportpaynel, Petro apparitore decanatus de Neuportpaynel et aliis tam clericis quam laicis multitudine copiosa.

[Folio 3]

COMMISSIO MAGISTRI JOHANNIS DE MONEMUTA CANCELLARII OXON'. To the masters and scholars of the University of Oxford, announcing that the bishop had appointed Master John of Monmouth as Chancellor of the University in succession to Master William of Kingscote. Newton Longville, June 6, 1290. A note added by John de Scalleby gives an account of the claims made by the university against the bishop's authority and a warning that it would be dangerous to give way too much.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilectis in Christo filiis magistris et scholaribus universitatis Oxon' universis salutem, gratiam et benedictionem. Ad instanciam vestre devotionis officium cancellarie universitatis ejusdem quod magister Willelmus de Kyngescote usque ad certum tempus jam elapsus ex nostra commissione de nostra speciali gracia nuper gessit, discreto viro magistro Johanni de Monemuta in theologia actualiter nunc regenti per vos

nobis ad idem officium nominato et ad nos propter hoc apud Neuton' Lungeville personaliter venienti et coram nobis personaliter constituto duximus committendum , donec aliud vobis super hoc dederimus in mandatis . Et hoc idem omnibus quos negotium contingit predictum tenore presentium intimamus . In cujus rei testimonium has litteras nostras patentes eidem magistro Johanni tradidimus sigilli nostri munimine roboratas . Datum apud Neuton' Lungeville VIII idus Junii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo et pontificatus nostri undecimo . — Ut autem sciatur qualiter deventum fuit ad formam premissionis prescripte , queratur precedens processus diffusus in rotulo memorandorum anni domini M. CC. octagesimi octavi circa medium rotuli . Qui vero noluerit circumveniri et sibi prejudicari in futuris prospiciat sibi quod illis de universitate non nimium condescendat in commissionibus faciendis aut in aliis . Qualiter erigere se in spiritu superbie inceperunt contra episcopum et ecclesiam Lincoln' quantum ad commissionem et quantum ad alia dicentes se non posse aliquo modo trahi coram episcopo extra municipium Oxon' si de ipsis querela deponeretur , vel etiam ab ipsis appelleretur episcopus , quodque non posset admitti appellatio interposita ad episcopum a cancellario nisi servaretur gradus appellando primum a cancellario ad universitatem regentium et secundum regentium et non regentium , vendicantes insuper pro jure suo quod ipsi possent per rectores vicarios et capellanos parochiales municipii Oxon' et etiam parochianos per juramentum de excessibus corrigendis¹ , et de facto inquisierunt et excommunicarunt non parentes eis , de quo quidem articulo cui tandem cesserunt maxima contentio habebatur inter illos de universitate ex parte una et episcopum et archidiaconum ex altera , quodque undecumque transeuntes per dictum municipium super quibuscumque contractibus alibi initis in eodem municipio poterant arestare , et contra eos procedere et non parentes excommunicare , et in eo casu de facto excommunicarunt tam laycos subditos episcopi quam beneficiatos , et in hiis omnibus allegarunt consuetudines suas , libertates , privilegia et statuta . Iccirco cautius est agendum ne nimium condescendatur eisdem.

LICENCIA DIM[ITTENDI]² ECCLESIAM AD FIR[MAM]². Licence to the Abbot and convent of Owston to let out the church of Slawston for four years to any cleric who could better its condition. Liddington, June 13, 1290.

RELAXATIO SEQUESTRI DE SWYNESHEVED'. Note of the relaxation of the order to sequester the property of the church of Swineshead. The order had been made on account of the non-residence of Master John the rector, who was fined one mark. Liddington, June 14, 1290.

¹ Sic. The sentence seems incomplete as it stands.

² MS. torn.

XVIII kalendas Julii anno XI apud Lidington' relaxatum fuit sequestrum in fructibus et obventionibus ecclesie de Swynesheued' occasione non-residenciae magistri Johannis rectoris ejusdem interpositum , et mulctatus fuit dictus magister Johannis pro culpa absencie sue ad unam marcam pauperibus parochianis suis juxta testimonium Decani Hoyland' sine more dispendio persolvendam , et injunctum fuit sibi quod in dicta ecclesia sua resideret donec absentandi licenciam obtineret , et super hoc scriptum fuit sub-sequestratori in Decanatu Hoyland' quod sequestrum hujusmodi haberet taliter relaxatum et restitueret eidem rectori si quid de proventibus ecclesie sue recepisset.

DISPENSATIO SUPER DEFECTU NATALIUM. Dispensation for bastardy granted to Hugh of Edenham, acolyte. Liddington, June 16, 1290.

LITTERA TESTIMONIALIS DE EXCOMMUNICATIONE. Two letters patent, testifying to the fact that William Burnel had been excommunicated for assaulting Master John Payn, rector of Bosworth, and for his general ill-behaviour, and that he had shown no sign of repentance. The letters were issued at the request of the said Master John Payn, who was warned not to make use of both letters but only of that which was more appropriate. Liddington, June 16, 1290.

Universis¹ sancte matris ecclesie filiis ad quos presentes littere pervenerint , Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus salutem in omnium salvatore . Attendentes pium esse excommunicatorum nomina publice divulgare , ut dum se ab aliis vitari conspiciunt rubore suffusi ad reconciliationis gratiam citius inclinentur , universitati vestre notum facimus per presentes quod Willelmus dictus Burnel in Archidiaconatu Leycestr' nostre diocesis moram trahens pro eo quod in magistrum Johannem Payn rectorem ecclesie de Boreswrth' similiter nostre diocesis presbiterum manus iniecit dei timore postposito temere violentas , majoris excommunicationis sententia auctoritate canonis innodatus et juxta ipsius confessionem judicialiter factam auctoritate nostra pronuntiatus est sic ligatus ac talis publice nunciatus , in qua quidem sententia animo indurato persistere non veretur , claves ecclesie contempnendo . In ejus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum . Datum apud Lidington', XVI kalendas Julii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo . — Exivit etiam alia littera patens de eadem materia ejusdem tenoris hoc mutato , quod non assignabitur in ea causa excommunicationis set² in genere , videlicet propter ipsius demerita . Et injunctum fuit eidem magistro Johanni Payn litteras impetranti quod non uteretur nisi una quam consilium sibi diceret fore utendam.

¹ The text of this letter is in B's hand.

² Sic, recte 'sed'.

[*folio 3v*]

CESSIO FRATRIS JOHANNIS DE MORTON' PRIORIS DE WYLMUNDELE. Note of the resignation of John of Morton, prior of Wymondley Parva, and of an injunction to the subprior and canons to proceed to the election of his successor without delay. The bishop, as patron of the house, gave licence to elect. Liddington, June 17, 1290.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Geoffrey of Great Bowden (Magna Budon') subdeacon, to receive the diaconate and priesthood. Liddington, June 18, 1290.

ABSOLUTIO WILLELMI DE HANRED'. To the Dean of Weldon, announcing the absolution of William de Hanred', who lived in Brampton near Dingley, from the sentence of excommunication which he had incurred by assaulting William his parish priest. William de Hanred was to take the cross, pay half a mark to the crusading funds and another half-mark to the poor of his parish, and he was to appear as a penitent in his parish church and offer two wax candles. Wittering, June 19, 1290.

O. etc , Decano de Welledon' , etc . Cum Willelmum de Hanred' in Brampton' juxta Dinglele a sententia excommunicationis quam pro violenta manuum injectione in Willelmum capellanum parochialem loci ejusdem incurrebat , absolvi fecerimus in forma juris , dato eidem W. primo crucis signaculo , injunctoque sibi pro penitencia publica quod unam dimidiam marcam in subsidium Terre Sancte citra festum Beati Michaelis persolvat , et aliam dimidiam marcam pauperibus dicte parochie juxta ordinationem ipsius ecclesie rectoris citra festum Assumptionis Beate Virginis eroget , quodque duos cereos ponderis duarum librarum fieri faciet et a loco ubi dictum capellanum percussit sine caputio et cena , roba calciamentis retentis , propriis manibus deferat usque ad magnum altare de Brampton' aliquo die dominica citra festum Sancti Petri ad Vincula statim ante inceptionem magne misse et eos ibi offerat , causa populo patenter expressa , que omnia facturum se promisit , corporali super hoc prestito sacramento , vobis mandamus quatinus eundem W. in locis quibus expedire videritis denunciatis seu denunciari faciatis a dicta sententia taliter absolutum , ipsum ad dictam penitentiam peragendum per censuram ecclesiasticam si necesse fuerit canonice compellentes . Datum apud Wytering , XIII kalendas Julii pontificatus nostri anno XI.

COMMISSIO AD AUDIENDUM RATIOCINIA. Commission to the Archdeacon of Leicester, his official, and to the cellarer of the Abbey of S. Mary de Pratis at Leicester, to investigate the activities of the executors of Geoffrey Mauclerk of Leicester, discharge them if possible, and to report to the bishop, sending him any matters which they could not settle. The investigation was made at the

request of William Mauclerk, one of the executors, and of William of Shelton who had married Geoffrey's widow Helen. Wittering, June 19, 1290.

O. etc.¹, dilectis in Christo filiis archidiacono Leicestr' et ejus officiali ac cellerario monasterii Beate Marie de Pratis Leycestr', etc. Cum ratiocinia Willelmi Mauclerk et coexecutorum suorum testamenti quondam Galfridi Mauclerk de Leye' per quosdam de clericis nostris pro parte nuper recipi fecerimus et audiri, nos hujusmodi negotium ad debitum effectum perducere, laboribusque dictorum executorum et aliorum quorum interest prospicere cupientes, attentoque in loco ubi dictus defunctus degebat et major pars fortune sue consistit liquere potest de diligencia dictorum executorum in administrando et, ut de aliis taceamus, negligencia argui eorundem, ad audiendum et recipiendum in forma juris ratiociniam administrationis dictorum executorum in bonis dicti defuncti necnon et faciendum et expediendum quicquam negotium requirit antedictum, diebus et locis per vos ad hoc assignandis, vocatisque vocandis, vobis ad instanciam dicti Willelmi et Willelmi de Schelton' mariti Elene relicte dicti Galfridi vices nostras cum canonice coercicionis potestate² committimus per presentes². Quod si non omnes hiis exequendis interfueritis, duo vestrum ea nihilominus exequantur, proviso quod de facto vestro et calculo prenotato ad proximum diem juridicum post festum Sancti Matthei apostoli ubicumque tunc fuerimus in nostra diocese nos reddatis certiores, dictis executoribus et aliis quos hujusmodi negotium contingit si quid in hac parte per vos remaneat indecisum eosdem diem et locum peremptorie assignantes quod cum omnibus actis et munimentis suis in premissis compareant coram nobis facturi et recepturi quod justicia suadebit. In quo assignationis eventu de nominibus et personis illorum quibus hujusmodi diem assignaveritis coram nobis et articulum seu articulos ipsos contingentes una cum aliis pro nostra informatione adiciendis nos in forma debita certificetis tempore oportuno. Valete. Datum apud Witting XIII kalendas Julii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo et pontificatus nostri XI.

ABSOLUTIO HUGONIS LE WARENNER. Note of the absolution of Hugh le Warrenner, servant of Lady Avis de Grele, from a sentence of excommunication incurred by his assaulting Walter of Great Casterton, and stabbing him in the thigh. Walter had given considerable provocation and struck the first blow. Hugh was ordered to make three penitential processions round the church of Great Casterton, and the Dean of Rutland was made responsible for seeing that he did them. Wittering, June 20, 1290.

XII kalendas Julii anno XI apud Wytering absolutus fuit auctoritate pontificali per fratrem Radulfum de Toftes penitenciarius

¹ The text of this letter is in B's hand.

² . . . ² interlined.

episcopi Hugo dictus le Warenner serviens domine Hawysie de Grele a sententia excommunicationis si quam pro eo quod Walterum de Briggecastr' juxta Staumford' ipsum percutientem et etiam vulnerantem , et postmodum causa majoris malefaciendi sibi inter brachia constringentem , cum gladio percussit ipsum usque ad magnam sanguinis effusionem in femore vulnerando contraxit , modum forsitan excedendo , et hoc ad cautelam , satisfacto prius dicto capellano , et injuncto sibi quod per tres dies dominicos ecclesiam de Briggecastr' ante processionem circuiret , primo scilicet die discalciatus in solis braccis et camisia sine cena et secundo die tunicia reassumpta et tertio etiam die retenta roba discalciatus et discinctus causa populo per capellanum expressa . Et super hoc scriptum fuit Decano Roteland' quod ipsum Hugonem haberet et haberi faceret a dicta sententia totaliter absolutum , ipsumque ad peragendam penitentiam predictam compelleret si necesse foret ecclesiasticam per censuram.

APPELLATIO EPISCOPI A DATIONE YCONOMI. Appeal of Bishop Sutton to the Pope against the action of the Official of Canterbury in questioning Sutton's institution of Patrick Burdet to the church of Raunds in favour of Robert of West Torrington and appointing someone to watch over Robert's interests there. The appeal was read aloud by Master Robert of Kilworth in the house of the rector of Wittering, immediately after the bishop's midday nap. The following witnesses were present :—Master Jocelyn of Kirmington, Master Stephen of Tathwell, Robert of Thorpe, John Maunsel, Roger of Sixhills, Robert of Kibworth, John de Scalleby and William of Anlaby, notary public. Wittering, June 20, 1290.

In dei nomine amen¹ . Cum nos Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' Episcopus Patricium Burdet clericum ad ecclesiam de Randes nostre diocesis dudum nobis per verum ejusdem ecclesie patronum canonice presentatum admisso prius per nos brevi regio pro eodem presentante quod personam ydoneam per ipsum nobis presentatam admitteremus ad eandem ad ipsam ecclesiam admissemus ac rectorem canonice instituissimus in eadem , idemque Patricius tanquam rector ejusdem ecclesie juxta formam statuti ultimi Lugdun' concilii sit per nos infra annum a tempore institutionis hujusmodi in presbiteratum ordinatus jam est diu , quidam Robertus de Westrington asserens se ad dictam ecclesiam dudum fuisse presentatum nunc ipsum rectorem de novo per viam appellationis coram officiale curie Cantuar' super ipsam ecclesiam trahit in causam . Qui quidem officialis non constante sibi de appellatione predicta nobis non vocatis nec per contumaciam [*folio 4*] absentibus licet sibi constaret ut verisimiliter presumimus de institutione dicti P. per nos facta in ecclesia memorata , ad instanciam prefati Roberti yconomum in dicta ecclesia de jure et de facto ut

¹ The text of this letter is in B's hand.

premittitur plena fore preficiendum decrevit et ibidem minus juste prefecit per decretum in nostri juris episcopalis prejudicium manifestum , cum ad nos non ad curiam Cantuar' hujusmodi yconomi datio seu prefectio de jure pertineret si ei locus esset in hoc casu . Unde nos sentientes nos ac ecclesiam nostram Lincoln' et dictum Patricium rectorem subditum nostrum et ecclesiam suam de Randes ex hiis per dictum officialem indebite pregravari , sacrosanctam sedem apostolicam coram vobis tabellione et testibus ad hoc vocatis et rogatis in hiis scriptis appellamus , protestantes nos appellationem istam coram dicto officiale velle innovare , et ab eo apostolos petere cum ipsius copiam habere poterimus oportune , subicientes etiam nos et ecclesiam nostram Lincoln' cum omnibus suis juris et pertinenciis ac omnes nobis adherentes in hac parte dicte sedis tuitioni et protectioni — Lecta fuit hujusmodi appellatio per magistrum Robertum de Kivelingworth' canonicum Lincoln' et clericum domini episcopi memorati in cujus ore dictus episcopus verba sua posuit in aula rectoris ecclesie de Wittring , XII kalendas Julii statim post dormitionem meridianam anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo , presentibus magistris Gocelino de Kirnington' et Stephano de Thawell canonicis Lincoln' , dominis Roberto de Thorp , Johanne Maunsel , Rogero de Sixel , Roberto de Kibbewurth' , Johanne de Scalleby et Willelmo de Anelouby publico notario.

INDULGENCIA. Grant of ten days' indulgence to all confessed and contrite persons of the diocese of Lincoln, and others whose diocesan bishops should approve, who should attend Mass on Sundays in the chapel of S. Mary in Peterborough Abbey, where the bishop had consecrated the altar on the day on which he issued the indulgence. Peterborough, June 22, 1290.

DATIO COADJUTORIS. Note of the appointment of the Vicar of Weedon as coadjutor to Simon vicar of Dodford, who was incurably ill. Peterborough, June 23, 1290.

PRO PRIORE DE SPALDING. Letters patent of Bishop Sutton, expressly renouncing any advantage which he might have gained by the use of a letter from the Prior and convent of Spalding, in which the said prior and convent submitted themselves fully to the bishop in the dispute which had arisen over the appropriation of the church of Weston. (This letter is given in full and dated at Spalding on March 3, 1286.) The bishop's letter is dated at Spalding on June 26, 1290.

Omnibus Christi fidelibus ad quos presentes littere pervenerint , Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus salutem in domino . Cum dilecti filii¹ prior et conventus Spalding se gracie

¹ Blank in MS.

et ordinationi nostre submiserint in forma que sequitur — Universis Christi fidelibus ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, W. permissione divina prior Spalding' et ejusdem loci conventus, salutem in domino sempiternam. Cum venerabilis pater dominus Oliverus Lincoln' episcopus appropriationem ecclesie de Weston' a sanctissimo patre domino Honorio pape IIII nobis concessam ex variis causis impugnare seu adnullare proponeret asserendo eam fuisse impetratam tacita veritate et falsitate suggesta, imponendoque nobis irreverenciam et contemptum eo quod impetrationis hujusmodi executionem fieri procuravimus eo penitus ut asserit ignorante, asserendo etiam quod ipsa impetratio seu appropriatio propter commodum sequestrorum et alia que in vacationibus ecclesie antedictae tam episcopus quam ejusdem loci archidiaconus percipere consueverunt ecclesie Lincoln' lesionem non modicam et prejudicium generaret, nos licet de jure appropriationis predictae firmiter confidamus, volentes tamen immo avide cupientes lites et contentiones cum predicto domino karissimo patre nostro quantum possumus evitare ac pro benevolencia ejus et gracia captanda sibi in spiritu humilitatis pro nostris viribus complacere, quantum ad duos articulos prenotatos, videlicet de contemptu et irreverencia que reputat sibi facta et lesione seu dampno que se et ecclesiam Lincoln' et archidiaconum suum Lincoln' ex hujusmodi appropriatione processu temporis asserit incursuros, salvis nobis beneficio litterarum super dicta appropriatione per dicta nos impetratarum et processibus auctoritate habitis earundem, alte et basse submittimus nos gracia ordinationi vel dicto predicti patris promittentes bona fide quod quicquid idem pater in hac parte uno modo vel alio duxerit ordinandum ratum habuerimus et acceptum. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum commune presentibus est appensum. Datum in capitulo nostro Spalding' quinto Nonas Marcii anno domini M. CC. octogesimo sexto. — Nos ad humilem devotionem et devotum ipsorum¹ prioris et conventus qui se gracia et ordinationi nostre in hac parte potius elegerunt humiliter submittere quam nobis resistendo in aliquo displicere nostre mentis oculos dirigentes, prefatos religiosos ad recipiendam quamcumque nostram ordinationem virtute submissionis predictae obligari nolumus vel teneri, ordinationi hujusmodi de cetero faciente renunciantes expresse ac decernentes predictam submissionem si forsan imposterum inveniatur penitus carere viribus et effectum. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum. Datum apud Spalding' sexto kalendas Julii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo.

INDULGENCIA. Grant of forty days' indulgence to all those who should contribute to the building-fund of the conventual church of Spalding, with a ratification of all similar indulgences which had been granted or might be granted in future. Spalding, June 26, 1290.

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[*folio 4^v*]

PRO FRATRE ROGERO DE WULLINGHAM CANONICO DE MARKEBY.
 Letter to Roger of Willingham, canon of Markby, granting to him, at the instance of the papal penitentiary, a dispensation for having been ordained priest and ministered in holy orders before he had expiated the sin of attending lectures in philosophy, dressed as a layman, at Paris when he should have been studying theology. Roger was ordered to abstain from ministering in priest's orders until after the ensuing feast of S. Peter's Chains. Gedney, June 28, 1290.

O permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilecto in Christo filio fratri Rogero de Wullingham canonico monasterii de Markeby nostre diocesis presbitero salutem , graciam et benedictionem . Litteras domini penitenciarü sacrosancte sedis apostolice nobis pro te nuper directas recepinus sub hac forma : — Venerabili in Christo patri¹ dei gracia episcopo Lincoln' frater Mathaeus miseratione divina ecclesie Sancti Laurencii in Damaso presbiter cardinalis salutem et sinceram in domino caritatem . Exposita per nos sanctissimo patri et domino , domino Nicholao pape IIII porrecta nobis dilecti in Christo fratris Rogeri de Wullingham presbiteri regularis canonici monasterii de Markeby ordinis Sancti Augustini vestre diocesis petitio , continebat quod ipse olim habitu ipsius religionis assumpto et voto professionis emisso promotus in diaconum ivit Paris' causa studii ubi anime levitate ipsius ordinis habitu abjecto per novem menses et amplius sub seculari habitu audivit philosophica contra sacrorum canonum instituta . Postmodum vero ad ipsius ordinis observancias reversus in ipso monasterio et receptus in suis ministrans ordinibus sicut prius de mandato sui prioris excessus hujusmodi non ignari se fecit presbiteratus ordinem promoveri rite tamen aliis statutis a jure temporibus et absque vicio simonie et ex hiis teneri non credens tanquam simplex et juris ignarus in sic suscepto et aliis suis ordinibus diutius ministravit donec per vos in dicto monasterio visitationis officium impendentes cognita culpa propria fuit rite , sicut asserit , ab excommunicationis sententia quam ex hoc incurrerat absolutus , super quibus de vestro et sui prioris mandato sedem apostolicam adiens supplicavit humiliter ut benignitas apostolica salutari sibi super hiis remedio providere misericorditer dignaretur . Ad vos igitur qui de hiis et eorum circumstanciis noticiam plenioram habetis canonicum remittentes eundem auctoritate ipsius domini pape cujus penitenciarie curam gerimus et de ejus speciali mandato vive vocis oraculo nobis facto paternitati vestre committimus , quatinus si est ita , injuncta ei super hiis debita absolutione previa pro culpe modo penitencia salutari et aliis que fuerint injungenda quodque in similibus de cetero non excedit sed statuta sacrorum canonum studeat inviolabiliter observare , eoque ad tempus prout expedire videritis a suorum

¹ Blank in MS.

ordinum executione suspenso demum suffragantibus sibi meritis alioque canonico non obstante , super sic suscepti ordinis executione et irregularitate ex premissis contracta dispensetis auctoritate predicta misericorditer cum eodem in favorem qui religioni debetur prout secundum deum anime ipsius salute videritis expedire . Datum Rome VI idus Marci , pontificatus domini Nicholai pape IIII anno tertio — Nos igitur ponderatis in hac parte ponderandis injuncta tibi super premissis debita absolutione previa pro culpe modo penitencia salutari et aliis juxta formam prescripti mandati injungendis , teque usque ad festum Sancti Petri ad vincula proximum futurum ab ordinum tuorum executione suspenso super ordinis sacerdotalis executione et irregularitate predictis auctoritate nobis in hac parte commissa tecum misericorditer dispensamus . In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum . Datum apud Gedeneye IIII kalendas Julii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS. To the Dean of Holland, ordering him to excommunicate all those who had maliciously hidden a charter by which the ancestors of the Earl of Lincoln had granted to the people of Skirbeck common rights in West Fen. Frieston, July 2, 1290.

O. permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilecto in Christo filio¹ decano Hoyland' salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Querelam habitatorum ville de Skirebek' nuper recepimus continentem quod mota eis impresenciarum super communitate quam in marisco de Westfen ex concessione progenitorum nobilis viri domini Comitis Lincoln' optinent sicut asserunt questione , quidam iniquitatis filii carte super concessione predicta confecte ex traditione antiqua custodiam optinentes , persone quorum et nomina ignorantur , cartam predictam per excogitatam maliciam occultare presumunt ut habitatores predictos suo jure perperam sic defraudent, in animarum suarum grande periculum , dictorum habitatorum prejudicium non modicum et scandalum plurimorum . Super quo sibi per nos petebant remedium congruum adhiberi . Volentes igitur habitatoribus predictis in suo jure conservando prout possumus subvenire , vobis firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus in ecclesia parochiali de Skirebek et aliis vicinis de quibus fueritis requisiti , tribus diebus dominicis seu festivis intra missarum sollempnia cum parochiani plenius fuerint congregati , omnes illos qui cartam predictam maliciose ut predicitur occultarunt , seu de occultatione hujusmodi quicquam sciunt , in genere moneatis seu faciatis moneri , quod eandem cartam habitatoribus predictis infra quindecim dies a tempore quo vestro monitio ad noticiam pervenerit eorundem , sub pena excommunicationis restituant ac

¹ Blank in MS.

revelent quod sciverint de eadem . Alioquin omnes hujusmodi occultatores et conelatores maliciosos per alios tres dies dominicos sibi invicem succedentes in locis et hora predictis , pulsatis campanis , candelis accensis , solempniter et puplice in genere excommunicetis seu excommunicari per alios faciatis . Datum apud Freston' sexto nonas Julii pontificatus nostri anno XI.

LICENCIA RECONCILIANDI ECCLESIAM DE SKIREBEK'. Note of a licence empowering the people of Skirbeck to have their church, which had been desecrated by bloodshed, reconciled by any Catholic bishop. Baumber, July 4, 1290.

DISPENSATIO SUPER DEFECTU NATALIUM. Dispensation for bastardy granted to Walter of Asgarby (Asgerby), clerk. Waddington, July 6, 1290.

DATIO COADJUTORIS RECTORI DE CLAXBY. Note of a letter, in the same form as that on the first folio of the register, appointing Aungerus rector of Haltham-on-Bain¹ coadjutor to Richard rector of Claxby, who was ill.² Richard had nominated Aungerus to the bishop. Waddington. July 6, 1290.

COMMISSIO. Commission to the Dean of Ness and to Hugh, vicar of S. Martin's Stamford, to examine the evidence of the witnesses called by Maud daughter of Bata of Thurlby to prove the death of her husband Elias, and to proceed as they should think fit. The statements of the witnesses (which are not quoted) were sent with the letter. Waddington, July 6, 1290.

O. etc , dilectis in Christo filiis decano de Ness' et Hugoni vicario ecclesie Sancti Martini Staunford' salutem , etc . Quia vos melius scire potestis quanta fides testibus quos Matildis filia Bate de Thorleby ad probandum mortem Helye mariti sui coram vobis produxit per vos ad mandatum nostrum admissis et examinatis in hoc casu debeat adhiberi , ³quasi nos ipsi³ vobis mandamus quatinus juxta merita probationis dicte mulieris et vires attestationum testium per vos receptorum in hac [folio 5] parte quas nobis per vos transmissas ad vos sub sigillo nostro duximus remittendas in periculo conscientiarum vestrarum quod justum fuerit statuere non tardetis . Datum apud Waddington' II nonas Julii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo.

RECONCILIATIO ECCLESIE DE BRAUNCETON' ET ABSOLUTIO IPSIUS QUI VIOLENCIAM INIBI PERPETRAVIT. Note of the reconciliation of

¹ His name was given as ' Angerus de Pelleville ' at the time of his institution to the church of Haltham-on-Bain. L.R.S. 39, p. 51.

² ' impotenti '.

³ ² interlined.

Branston church, desecrated by bloodshed, by the bishop on July 7, 1290. Henry Vintner, who had desecrated the church by striking Adam the chaplain on the nose and making it bleed, was absolved at Newark on July 10, on condition that he took the cross and appeared as a penitent in Branston church on the three next Sundays, offering a candle on each occasion. The Dean of Longoboby was ordered to enforce this penance.

Nonis Julii anno XI reconciliavit episcopus ecclesiam de Braunceton' juxta Lincoln' per effusionem sanguinis maculatam, mandans Henricum vinetarium de eadem qui violenciam in dicta ecclesia commiserat propter quam ecclesia erat reconciliata, in Adam capellanum de Braunceton' usque ad sanguinis effusionem a naso citra tamen lesionem difficilem et enormem manus iniciendo temere violentas, excommunicatum publice nunciari. Qui quidem Henricus postmodum VI idus Julii anno predicto apud Neuwerk ponderatis qualitate violencie predictae ac statu ejusdem Henrici et aliis circumstantiis in hoc casu requirendis, satisfacto etiam prius leso et rectori ecclesie predictae pro dampno dato eidem, imposita sibi pro commisso penitencia salutari, auctoritate crucis dato sibi ejusdem signaculo, necnon et auctoritate pontificali extitit absolutus, tibi¹ injunctum fuit pro pena publica quod per tres dies dominicos proxime tunc sequentes ad ecclesiam predictam accederet et in tunica sine cingulo et cena a fonte usque ad majus altare devote incederet, unam candelam dimidie libre cere deferens in manu sua, et super altare predictum illam offerens ibi donec duraret attendendus. Et super hoc scriptum fuit decano de Langhou et Bobby quod ipsum haberet et haberi faceret taliter absolutum, ipsumque compelleret ad dictam penitenciam peragendam.

ABSOLUTIO. Absolution of John of Normanby, living in Lincoln, from the sentence of excommunication which he had incurred by assaulting Master Benedict of Ferriby without causing bloodshed. He was to be beaten once in the porch of S. John in Newport, and the Dean of Christianity in Lincoln was made responsible for enforcing this penance. Newark, July 10, 1290.

VI idus Julii anno predicto apud Neuwerk' absolutus fuit ²auctoritate pontificali² Johannes dictus de Normanby de Lincoln' a sententia excommunicationis quam incurrit pro eo quod in magistrum Benedictum de Feriby manus violentas temere iniecit citra tamen sanguinis effusionem seu aliam lesionem difficilem et enormem, satisfacto prius leso et imposita sibi pro commisso penitencia salutari, injunctoque sibi pro pena publica quod die dominica proxime sequente in ostio ecclesie sancti Johannis in Neuport post aspersionem aque benedictae unam receperet disciplinam causa per capellanum expressa. Et super hoc scriptum fuit

¹ Sic, recte 'sibi'.

²⁻² interlined.

decano Christianitatis Lincoln' quod ipsum Johannem haberet et haberi faceret taliter absolutum.

COMMISSIO. Commission to the Treasurer of Lincoln (Master Richard of Horton) and to Master Benedict of Halam (Halum) rector of Stubton (Stubeton') to discharge Sir Robert of Kirton (Kirketon) and his fellows, executors of the will of Lady Alice de Ros, wife of Sir James de Birun, and to discharge likewise Richard of Thistleton (Thistelton') rector of Winthorpe and his fellows, executors of the will of William of Stanton (Staunton') who had himself been one of the executors of the said Lady Alice. Newark, July 13, 1290.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Thomas son of William son of Roger of Screddington, clerk, to receive all appropriate holy orders. Sleaford, July 17, 1290.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS. To the official of the archdeacon of Leicester, ordering him to excommunicate all those who maliciously opposed the right of the Abbot and convent of S. Agatha's near Richmond to present to the church of Saddington, since it had been established beyond a doubt that the abbot and convent were the true patrons. Sleaford, July 17, 1290.

O. permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilecto in Christo filio officiali¹ archidiaconi Leycestr' salutem , etc . Cum omnes illi qui vacante ecclesia maliciose opponunt vel opponi procurant questionem de jure patronatus ut verum patronum a collatione illius ecclesie saltem impediunt illa vice , sint majoris excommunicationis sententia auctoritate constitutionis metropolitice in concilio Oxon' edite innodati , plurimumque expediat hujusmodi sententiam ut periculum ex ea proveniens melius evitetur apertius pupplicari , vobis firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus omnes illos qui religiosis viris Abbati et conventui Sancte Agathe juxta Richmund' super jure patronatus ecclesie de Sadington' nostre diocesis vacantis ad quam in quinque vacationibus ultimo et mediate notorie presentarunt , sicut per inspectionem registorum predecessorum nostrorum plenius est compertum , questionem maliciose opponunt vel opponi procurant injuste , ut ipsos ab effectu presentationis sue sic defraudent , in dictam excommunicationis sententiam incidisse et excommunicatos esse in ecclesia de Sadington' predicta et aliis ecclesiis vicinis in quibus videritis expedire , intra missarum solempnia , necnon in capitulo decanatus de Gertr' proxime celebrando canonica monitione ut ab hujusmodi oppositione absteineant ex habundanti premissa , pulsatis campanis , candelis accensis , solempniter et publice per vos seu alios in genere

¹ Blank in MS.

nuncietis . Valete . Datum apud Lafford' XVI kalendas Augusti pontificatus nostri anno undecimo.

ABSOLUTIO. Absolution of Hugh son of Emma Bunting of Stamford, clerk, who had been excommunicated for assaulting William Bunting, clerk, causing bloodshed but no serious injury. Hugh was to take the cross and to stand bareheaded in a surplice in the church of All Saints, Stamford, on the three following Sundays, singing psalms. He was also to offer one wax candle. Sleaford, July 18, 1290.

XV kalendas Augusti anno XI apud Lafford' absolutus fuit¹ ¹auctoritate crucis¹ Hugo filius Emme Bunting clericus² a sententia excommunicationis majoris quam incurrerat pro eo quod in Willelmum Bunting clericum manus violentas usque ad sanguinis effusionem citra tamen gravis vulneris inflictionem seu aliam lesionem difficilem et enormem temere iniecit , constante prius de satisfactione prestita leso , et dato sibi crucis signaculo , ita quod juxta vires facultatum suorum certum conferret in subsidium Terre Sancte . Et injunctum fuit sibi pro pena , quod tribus diebus dominicis tunc proxime sequentibus in ecclesia Omnium Sanctorum in foro Staumford' denudati capite indutus suppellicio staret intra missarum solempnia inter laicos et cancellum psallens de psalterio quantum posset , quodque prima dominica de predictis ante incoationem hujusmodi stationis offeret ad majus altare dicte ecclesie unum cereum unius libre cere ibidem quamdiu duraret accedendus et rediens ad locum stationis eam compleret ut est dictum , causa per capellanum astanti populo expressa . Et super hoc scriptum fuit decano de Staumford' quod eundem Hugonem haberet et haberi faceret a dicta sententia taliter absolutum.

[*folio 5v*]

INDULGENCIA. Grant of ten days' indulgence to all truly penitent people who should visit the newly consecrated church of the Franciscans in Leicester, and say a prayer for all the living and dead before the altar of S. Mary, S. John Baptist and S. John Evangelist in the north aisle on the day of the dedication of the said altar. Sleaford, July 15, 1290.

RELAXATIO SEQUESTRI. Order to the Dean of Rothwell to relax the sequestration imposed on the goods of the vicar of Brixworth (Brikeleswrth') because he had farmed out the church to a certain layman, and to see that the layman did not interfere again. Sleaford, July 15, 1290.

PRO MONIALI DE GODESTOWE RAPTA. To the Archdeacons of Oxford and Buckingham and their officials, ordering them to publish

¹⁻¹ interlined.

² This word is written in the margin.

throughout their archdeaconries the excommunication of all those who had abducted Agnes of Sheen, a nun of Godstow, as she was riding along the King's highway near Wycombe. The archdeacons were to find out the names of the malefactors if possible and cite them to appear before the bishop for judgment. Any evidence discovered was to be reported to the bishop. Sleaford, July 19, 1290.

O. etc¹, dilectis in Christo filiis² Oxon' et²
 Buck' archidiaconis et eorum officialibus salutem, gratiam et benedictionem. Cum preter omnem violenciam generaliter inhibitam a canone late sentencie religiosis personis inferri, specialiter etiam traditum sit in jure tam canonico quam civili quod si quis non dicam rapere sed attemptare tantum matrimonii jungendi causa deo dicatas virgines ausus fuerit, capitali pena cui comparatur excommunicatio feriat, adeo quia qui sacras virgines vel volentes vel invitatas matrimonio suo non tantum sociaverit sed temptaverit sociare juxta decretum sancte synodi si clericus fuerit a proprio gradu cadat, si vero laicus excommunicationi subdatur; nos ex officii nostri debito abhominabile facinus hujusmodi et sacrilegium execrabile perfecto odio persequentes, discretioni vestre in virtute sancte obediencie sub pena districtiois canonice firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus omnes illos quicumque fuerint et undecumque venerint qui Agnetem de Schene notorie monialem domus de Godestowe et quamdam aliam notorie commonialem suam domus ejusdem itinerantes pacifice et notorie sub habitu religionis ejusdem versus domum suam in proprio curru domus illius nuper in via regia juxta Wicumb' in nostra diocese contra justiciam temere impediens, non sine violencia adhibita detinebant, eisdem monialibus et propriis custodibus suis invitis, ac manus in ipsam Agnetem monialem domus predictae tam temere quam inverecunde incientes, ipsam descendere fecerunt, quin potius traxerunt a curru, ceperunt et secum sub habitu predicto per impetum abduxerunt dampnabiliter quo volebant et adhuc detinent dampnabiliter latibulis sicut dicitur in diversis, abbatissa et conventu domus sue predictae de Godestowe prorsus invitis, in grande animarum suarum periculum,³ domus predictae et totius religionis obprobrium ac vehemens scandalum plurimorum, ipso facto propter violenciam temeritatem et injuriam hujusmodi excommunicatos esse cum omnibus et singulis auxilium, consilium seu favorem per se vel alios publice vel occulte sibi prestantibus in hoc casu in singulis ecclesiis archidiaconatum vestrorum septem diebus dominicis et totidem aliis intercidentibus feriatis intra missarum solemnia post lectum ewangelium indicto silencio, , presente clero et populo, pulsatis campanis, candelis accensis et extinctis, vice et auctoritate nostra solempniter et publice nuncietis seu faciatis taliter per alios nunciari, veritatem

¹ The first half of this letter is written in B's hand.

² Blank in MS.

³ The rest of the letter is in Scalleby's hand.

nihilominus super omnibus et singulis supradictis , ac de personis sacrilegorum ipsorum et aliorum detinentium nunc eandem viis et modis quibus melius expedire videritis quotiens et ubi volueritis cum omni diligencia conjunctim seu divisim sollicitius indagantes . Et quos reos hujusmodi facti uno modo vel alio compareritis seu notatos ex parte nostra peremptorie citare nullo modo tardetis , quod in quindena a die citationis vestre personaliter propter criminis et facti vehemenciam compareant coram nobis ubicumque tunc in nostra diocese fuerimus , super crimine tam nephando juxta qualitatem excessum et culparum suarum pro meritis recepturi , audituri et facturi quod equitas suaserit rationis . Et quod super hiis omnibus et singulis ad mandatum nostrum duxeritis faciendum , nos uterque vestrum per suas patentes litteras harum seriem continentes nullo modo tardetis una cum nominibus personarum et qualitate culparum distincte et aperte quantocius reddere certiores . Valete . Datum apud Lafford¹ XIII kalendas Augusti anno domini nostri M. CC. nonagesimo et pontificatus nostri XI.

PRO EADEM MONIALE. To the Bishop of London and his vicar-general, reporting the abduction of Agnes of Sheen and asking for the excommunication of everyone concerned throughout the diocese of London. Sleaford, July 19, 1290.

Venerabili in Christo patri domino¹ dei gracia London' episcopo et ipsius vicario generali , O. permissione ejusdem Lincoln' ecclesie minister humilis salutem cum affectionis non modice continuo incremento . Cum preter omnem violenciam , etc , ut in littera precedenti usque ibi ' perfecto odio persequentes ' et tunc sequitur — dilectis in Christo filiis de Oxon' et de Buck' archidiaconis et eorum officialibus nostris litteris nuper dedimus in mandatis quod omnes illos quicumque fuissent qui Agnetem de Schene , etc , ut in precedente littera usque ibi ' solempniter et publice nunciarent et facerent per alios taliter nunciari ' , et tunc sequitur — Cum igitur scriptum sit in jure ' cure sit omnibus episcopis excommunicatorum nomina tam vicinis episcopis quam parochianis suis pariter indicare , eaque in celebri loco posita pre foribus ecclesie cunctis convenientibus inculcare , ut excommunicati rubore suffusius citius convertantur , et excusationis causa omnibus auferatur ' , venerandam paternitatem pariter et discretionem vestram sub optentu mutue vicissitudinis in casu consimili vel majori obnixe requirimus et rogamus quatinus omnes sacrilegos prelibitos cum omnibus suis participibus , ut est dictum , sic a nobis solempniter denunciatos in genere excommunicatione ligatos ex causa predicta , per vestram diocesem in locis que magis oportuna videritis eque solempniter et publice denunciare velitis , nos quid inde duxeritis

¹ Blank in MS.

faciendum dignantes si placet litteratorie reddere certiores tempore oportuno . Valeat veneranda paternitas vestra in domino per tempora diuterna . Datum ut in littera precedenti.

[PRO] CAMPANILI DE HAG[W]RTHINGHAM.¹ To the Dean of Horncastle and Hill, telling him to go to Hagworthingham and extract reasonable contributions from those of the parishioners who were refusing to give anything to the fund for the building of their belfry, and to examine the accounts of the collectors. Sleaford, July 19, 1290.

O. etc , decano de Hornecastr' et de Hill' salutem , etc . Sicut juri est consonum parochianos locorum ad reparationem [*folio 6*] seu constructionem ecclesiarum contribuere nolentes sua sponte per censuram ecclesiasticam ad id previa ratione compelli , sic consentaneum esse noscitur equitati , quod sciatur quod ad hujusmodi usum pie collatum fuerit , in utilitatem ecclesiarum plenius convertatur . Cum igitur nonnulli parochiani ecclesie de Hagwrthingham ad constructionem campanilis ejusdem laudabiliter inchoati , immo versus confirmationem competenter directi , de suo sicut justum fuerit conferre recusent , et alii jam pridem contribuentes ex hoc murmurent , quod id quod collectum est ad fabricam suprafatam ad illam non convertitur sicut deceret , nos contra contumaciam seu rebellionem et murmurationis obloquium ex debito officii nostri remedium congruum providere volentes , vobis mandamus quatinus ad dictum locum diebus quibus videritis expedire personaliter accedentes , illos quos ad confereudum dicte fabrice rebelles fore compareritis , vocatis vocandis , ad contribuendum sicut equum fuerit cononice compellatis , receptores collecte prefate ad reddendum ratiocinia de receptis suis et expensis seu liberatis per censuram ecclesiasticam si necesse fuerit mediante ratione cogatis , proviso quod in hujusmodi contributione illa moderatio servetur ut uni in prejudicium aliorum nullatenus deferatur , nec alius vice versa plus justo gravetur . Valete . Datum apud Lafford' XIII kalendas Augusti pontificatus nostri undecimo.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to William of Edenham, acolyte. Sleaford, July 20, 1290.

COMMISSIO. Commission to the Dean of Grantham and to Master Roger rector of Barrowby (Beruby) to discharge the executors of Sir Hugh de Charnels, knight, and report to the bishop. Sleaford, July 22, 1290.

DISPENSATIO JOHANNIS DE SANCTO LAUDO.² Dispensation for bastardy to John of S. Laud, clerk. Sleaford, July 25, 1290.

¹ MS. torn.

² This entry and the one which follows are in B's hand.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS CUM CITATIONE. To the Dean of Aveland, telling him that Sir Andrew de Neville of Stoke Willoughby had not only refused to pay tithes to the rector of Newton-in-Aveland but had impounded the rector's horse which was carrying a load of hay which was part of the tithe. Sutton ordered the dean to go and tell Sir Andrew to seek absolution, and if he would not do so to appear before the bishop for judgement. The dean was also to excommunicate in general all persons infringing the rights and liberties of the church of Newton-in-Aveland. Sleaford, July 24, 1290.

O. etc , decano de Avelund' salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Quia nichil refert utrum quis decimam divino et humano jure debitam non solvat , vel id quod loco decime dimisit ab illis quibus debetur licite non permittat abduci , dominusque Andreas de Nevill' de Stokwiluby miles parochianus ecclesie de Neuton' ejusdem ecclesie rectorem suosve ministros decimam feni de prato suo in dicta parochia provenientis in eodem prato dimissam nuper juxta libertatem ecclesiasticam absque cujusquam prejudicio et injuria cariare volentes temere impedivit seu fecit impediri , quemdam equum ejusdem rectoris hujusmodi feno decimali onerato¹ in casu a jure et regni consuetudinario non concessio non sine prejudicio ecclesiastice libertatis propria temeritate capiens seu capi faciens et sic captum detinens minus juste , ac prefato rectori hujusmodi fenum abducendi adimens facultatem , jura et libertates dicte ecclesie de Neuton' per maliciam ut accepimus infringendo , in anime sue grande periculum et scandalum plurimorum ; nos hujusmodi presumptionis temeritatem ne ipsius impunitas aliis consimilia perpetrandi audaciam prestet quantum ad nos pertinet zelo justicie persequi cupientes , vobis in virtute obediencie firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus associatis vobiscum quinque vel sex rectoribus , vicariis seu capellanis parochialibus ad locum predictum personaliter accedentes , prefatum militem si ipsum ea que premissa sunt in prejudicium ecclesiastice libertatis notorie temere compareritis commisisse , moneatis et efficaciter inducatis ut deo et ecclesie et rectori predicto de dampno et injuria prefatis satisfaciat absque mora , seque a sententia excommunicationis quam incurrit si premissa veritate nitantur procuret absolvi . Alioquin si ipsum rebellem et protervum inveneritis in hac parte , eundem citetis peremptorie quod compareat coram nobis proximo die juridico post festum Exaltationis Sancte Crucis ubicumque tunc fuerimus in nostra diocese penam canonicam pro suis demeritis in premissis recepturus , et factururus quod justicia suadebit . Ceterum cum omnes et singuli ecclesias suo jure privantes et earundem libertates per maliciam et contra justiciam infringere vel perturbare contententes et etiam sine fractione contentiose turbantes easdem ,

¹ Sic, recte "oneratum".

quod non solum intelligendum est de generalibus libertatibus universalis ecclesie , verum etiam de specialibus tam temporalibus quam spiritualibus contra justiciam ecclesie cujuscumque [*folio 6^v*] auctoritate sacre constitutionis sententia majoris excommunicationis innodati existant , nos propter quorundam maliciam per quam utile et expediens fore arbitantes hujusmodi sententiam aliquoties solempniter publicari , vobis mandamus quatinus omnes ecclesiam de Neuton' predictam suo jure privantes et ipsius jura et libertates contra justiciam infringentes vel perturbare etiam contententes et sine fractione contentiose turbantes easdem tribus diebus dominicis in eadem ecclesia de Neuton' et aliis duabus vel tribus vicinis intra missarum solempnia , pulsatis campanis , candelis accensis , excommunicatos esse denunciari faciatis , donec beneficium absolutionis meruerint optinere . Et quid super hiis omnibus faciendum et qualiter processeritis in hac parte , nos litteris vestris patentibus harum seriem continentibus apertius certificetis tempore oportuno . Datum apud Lafford' IX kalendas Augusti , anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo.

ABSOLUTIO ROBERTI DE GRENDON'. Absolution of Robert of Grendon from the sentence of excommunication which he had incurred by striking in the face Henry, servant of Master Nicholas of Appletree, in the course of a quarrel over a game of dice. Robert was to receive two beatings in the household of the Archdeacon of Northampton. Sleaford, July 25, 1290.

VIII kalendas Augusti anno XI apud Lafford' absolutus fuit Robertus de Grendon' a sententia excommunicationis majoris quam auctoritate canonis incurrerat pro eo quod in Henricum servientem magistri Nicholai de Apeltr' clerici manus violentas usque ad modicam sanguinis effusionem ab ore citra tamen lesionem difficilem vel enormem ipsum pugno facie semel eum inconsulto calore commotus dicto Henrico causam dante percutiendo temere iniecit , orta prius inter eos ludentes ad talos in quadam camera discordia aliquali , et injunctum fuit sibi preter aliam penitentiam salutarem sibi impositam quod coram familia Archidiaconi Norhamt' conscia hujusmodi facti unam et duas a sacerdote in secreto receperet disciplinas.

[NO HEADING.] To the Archdeacon of Buckingham or his official, telling him to hear and settle the dispute between the Prior and convent of Luffeld and the Abbey and convent of Biddlesden over the church of Thornborough, where the prior complained that the abbot was infringing his rights. Sleaford, July 27, 1290.

O. etc , dilecto in Christo filio¹ archidiacono Buck' vel ejus officiali salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Ex gravi conques-
tione¹ prioris et conventus de Luffeld' accepimus e vicino ,

¹ Blank in MS.

quod quamvis ipsi parochialem ecclesiam de Thorenberg' archidiaconatus Buck' hactenus auctoritate interveniente legitima pacifice possederint ab antiquo , decimas et alia jura parochialia suo jure percipientes legitime ex eadem , religiosi tamen viri¹ abbas et conventus de Bittelesden irreligiose admodum se habentes , et quedam edificia diversorum parochianorum ecclesie predictae de Thorenberg' diversis temporibus comparantes sicque nonnullis famulis et servientibus suis ejusdem habitationis umbraculum ordinantes , capelle ejusdem effigiem in loco prorsus privato temeritate propria erigere post pascha domini proximo preteritum de novo infra limites parochie ejusdem ecclesie de Thorenberg' nuperrime presumpserunt , campanam in ea pulsantes , et ibidem divina sine auctoritate legitima non tantum suis sed et ceteris parochianis ejusdem ecclesie et quilibet aliis venientibus ex transverso publice et non minus temere celebrantes et quod est mirabilius oblationes indifferenter recipiunt aliorum , ac eisdem¹ priore et conventu omnino reclamantibus et injunctis non sine nota sacrilegii detinent sic perceptis et humiliter cum instantia requisiti reddere contradicunt , dictos¹ priorem et conventum suo jure privando , quin potius sua possessione jurium parochialium ex diu taliter spoliando in grave animarum suarum periculum ac dictorum¹ prioris et conventus et ecclesie predictae de Tor' prejudicium non modicum et scandalum plurimorum . Nos igitur ex officii nostri debito attendentes quod omnes illi qui ecclesiam maliciose suo jure privare presumunt , aut per maliciam libertates earundem infringere vel etiam sine fractione perturbare contendunt sunt ipso jure majoris excommunicationis sententia innodati et pro talibus usque ad satisfactionem condignam habendi , discretionem vestram firmiter injungendo mandamus quod vocatis vocandis et auditis hinc inde propositis justicie completum postpositis omni gracia et favore exhibeatis eisdem cum ea celeritate qua fieri poterit justicia inoffensa . Valete . Datum apud Lafford' VI kalendas Augusti ponticatus nostri anno undecimo.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to William called de Gaskerik of Barton, acolyte, to receive all holy orders. Sleaford, July 27, 1290.

WYVELESFORD'. Note of the arrival of Walter de Pont Audomar saying that he had been appointed by the Abbot of Bec Prior of Wilsford in succession to Stephen of Stoke who had died. Sutton proved by reference to the registers that it was customary for priors to be presented to the bishop for institution, and deferred consideration of the case until the following Michaelmas. Sleaford, July 27, 1290.

¹ Blank in MS.

Memorandum quod VI kalendas Augusti anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo apud Lafford' venit frater Walterus de ponte Audomari monachus monasterii de Becco Herlewyni , dicens se per abbatem suum deputatum esse priorem in prioratu de Wyvelesford' vacante per mortem Stephanum de Stok , rogans ut episcopum ipsum recommendatum haberet . Cui episcopus respondit quod prior qui ultimo fuerat in dicto prioratu sibi erat presentatus et per ipsum prior institutus , quodque omnes priores qui ipsum precesserant in eodem prioratu sic fuerant predecessoribus suis episcopis Lincoln' presentati et instituti per eosdem , ostendens eidem fratri Waltero registrum suum et predecessorum suorum registra in quibus hujusmodi continebantur aperte , adiciens quod non permetteret eum sine presentatione sibi facienda et institutione ab eo recipienda dicti prioratus administratione habere . Cumque dictus frater Walterus gratiam peteret in hac parte , asserens se velle facere que sibi incumbunt in premissis juxta morem hactenus observatum et se velle pro presentatione habenda laborare , episcopus dissimulandum duxit in premissis usque ad festum Sancti Michaelis proxime sequens.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Richard son of Odo of Hainton (Haynton'), acolyte , to receive all holy orders. Sleaford, August 2, 1290.

COMMISSIO PRO MONACHIS DE DAVENTR'. Commission to the prior of Daventry to receive the profession of those monks in his house who had not yet taken the vows, with a note of the formula to be used. Sleaford, August 4, 1290.

O. etc , dilecto in Christo filio¹ priori de² Daventre salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Ad recipiendum vice et auctoritate nostra professionem monachorum in vestro monasterio nondum professorum , secundum formam cedulae littere directe vobis et conventui intercluse , vobis vices nostras committimus per presentes , vobis firmiter injungendo quatinus hujusmodi professionem recipere non tardetis , ne contra statuta sanctorum patrum religionis habitum portantes absque professione debita vitam agant diutius monachalem . Datum apud Lafford' II nonas Augusti anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo . Forma cedulae fuit talis : — ' Ego frater N. promitto stabilitatem et conversionem morum meorum et obedientiam secundum regulam Sancti Benedicti coram deo et sanctis ejus in monasterio tali in presencia talis abbatis ' . Et est sumpta de regula beati Benedicti capitulo LVIII , quod sic incipit ' Noviter veniens quis ad conversionem ' .

[folio 7]

LICENCIA INGERAMI DE ESTRUS DE ABSENTANDO SE AB ECCLESIA SUA. Permission to Ingram de Estrus to absent himself from his

¹ Blank in MS.

² Interlined.

church of Kirkby Mallory [Kyrkeby] for two years from the following Michaelmas in order to attend upon Edmund of Langley the King's brother. Proper provision was to be made for the services of the church. Sleaford, August 5, 1290.

LICENCIA ABSENTANDI. Permission to Ralph, rector of S. Mary at the Bridge, Stamford, to absent himself from his church for one year from the following Michaelmas in order to attend upon the Prior of Durham. Proper provision was to be made for the services of the church. Sleaford, August 7, 1290.

LICENCIA ABSENTANDI. Permission to Imbert, rector of Gedding-ton (Geytington'), to absent himself from his church for one year from the following Michaelmas. No reason given. Proper provision was to be made for the services of the church. Sleaford, August 8, 1290.

LITTERA QUESTUARIA. To all the clergy of the diocese, telling them to show kindness towards a poor priest named William of Hanslope, and to commend him to the charity of their parishioners. Sleaford, August 7, 1290.

O. etc , universis rectoribus , vicariis et capellanis parochialibus quibuscumque in nostra diocese constitutis , salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Calamitati et miserie Willelmi de Hamslope pauperis presbiteri quem varie adversitates juxta etatis sue conditiones quibusdam aliis infirmitatibus concurrentibus plurimum fatigarunt prout signa evidencia ostendunt pio compatibles affectu , universitatem vestram ad instanciam ejusdem Willelmi monemus et hortamur in domino quatinus cum idem pauper ad loca vestra pro relevatione paupertatis sue et subventionem quoad victus necessaria duxerit declinendum , eundem pie favore ordinis admittentes negotium suum inter parochianos vestros intra missarum solemnia per dies festos cum gracia et favore exponere velitis intuitu caritatis , sibi quod caritative collatum fuerit in hac parte in remissionem peccatorum vestrorum liberari integraliter facientes . Valete . Datum apud Lafford' VII idus Augusti , anno domini. M. CC. nonagesimo et pontificatus nostri undecimo.

INHIBITIO PRO MAGISTRO HENRICO DE NASSINGTON'. To the Dean of Rothwell, ordering him to forbid, on pain of excommunication, anyone to claim for the church of Blatherwycke those tithes from the lands of Sir John de Engayne which rightfully belonged to the church of Pytchley, of which Master Henry of Nassington, the bishop's official, was rector. Sleaford, August 7, 1290.

O. etc , decano de Rowell' salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Exposuit nobis magister Henricus de Nassington' rector ecclesie de Pytcsel' officialis noster quod cum eadem ecclesia ac ipse et

predecessores sui nomine ipsius essent in possessione juris vel quasi percipiendi decimas garbarum provenientium de terris quibuscunque sitis infra parochia ejusdem ecclesie , nonnulli animarum suarum salutis immemores falso pretendentes decimas provenientes de quibusdam terris spectantibus ad dominium nobilis viri domini Johannis de Engayne infra dictam parochiam constitutis ad ecclesiam de Blatherwik' pertinere , ecclesiam de Pittesl' sua possessione vel quasi percipiendi hujusmodi decimas spoliare vel quasi propria temeritate proponunt , eam suo jure per maliciam privare intentes prout ex relatione fidedignorum se asserit didicisse . Quare nobis humiliter supplicavit ut sibi super hiis subvenire salubri remedio curaremus . Nos igitur attendentes quod ad tuendum statum ecclesiarum nostre diocesis et illarum spiritualibus quarum nostri peculiare clerici sunt rectores ex officii debito constringimur et tenemur , ac melius esse jura ecclesiarum intacta servari quam post causam vulneratam¹ remedium querere , vobis in virtute obediencie firmiter injungendo mandamus , quatinus proximo die festivo post receptionem presentium ad ecclesiam de Pittesl' personaliter accedentes infra missarum solemnities parochianis presentibus vice nostra solemniter inhibere curetis ne qui decimas prenotatas injuste invadere seu ecclesiam de Pittesle predictam sua possessione vel quasi percipiendi hujusmodi decimas propria temeritate spoliare aut libertates ejusdem ecclesie per maliciam infringere seu sine fractione contentiose turbare presumant , seu eisdem transgressoribus in hac parte prebeant consilium vel juvamen sub pena excommunicationis majoris , omnes et singulos contra hujusmodi inhibitionem quicquam temere attemptantes eadem excommunicatione diebus et locis quibus videritis expedire in genere publice et solemniter innodantes . Si quis etenim se ad easdem decimas credit jus habere , prompti erimus et parati sibi cum celeritate qua decet justicie plenitudinem exhibere . Quid autem inde feceritis nos per litteras vestras patentes harum seriem continentes certiores reddatis cum ex parte dicti magistri Henrici fueritis congrue requisiti . Datum apud Lafford' VII idus Augusti anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to William son of Simon of Holderness (Holdernes) from Wainfleet (Waynflēt'), clerk, to receive all holy orders which he had not yet taken. Sleaford, August 11, 1290.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to William of Laughton (Lacton'), clerk. Lincoln, August 14, 1290.

CAPTIO. Request to the King for the arrest of Thomas Bramid of Lincoln who had been excommunicated by the subdean and chapter. Nettleham, August 18, 1290.

¹ *Sic, recte 'vulneratam'.*

[*folio 7^v*]

SENTENCIA GENERALIS. To the Dean of Lovedon, telling him to inhibit the collection of the altarage of the vacant church of Caythorpe, since this rightfully belonged to the bishop, and to excommunicate anyone who did not observe the inhibition. Nettleham, August 22 (in the morning) 1290.

O. permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilecto in Christo filio¹ decano Luvedon' salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Cum fructus et proventus beneficiorum ecclesiasticorum vacantium in nostra diocese in alteragio saltem tempore vacationum provenientes , et nonnunquam omnes etiam fructus majores secundum quod hujusmodi vacationes varie contingunt , juxta landabilem consuetudinem a tempore cujus memoria non occurrit optentam et observatam , ad nostram dispensationem regulariter ac notorie pertinere noscantur , nonnulli presumptuosi viri quorum personas et nomina penitus ignoramus , obventiones altari parochialis ecclesie de Cathorp' nobis pleno jure notorie subiecte temeritate propria colligere et ut audivimus occupare presumunt , in juris nostri episcopalis et ecclesie nostre de Lincoln' libertatis prejudicium et animarum suarum periculum per quam grave . Nos vero attendentes quod jura ecclesie nostre scienter negligere non debemus qui aliis in exhibenda justitia efficimur debitores , advertentes etiam quod dissimulatio si hujusmodi presumptioni nullatenus resistatur multiplicatum inconueniens in casu consimili generare poterit in futurum , vobis mandamus in virtute obediencie firmiter injungentes quatinus omnes et singulos transgressores predictos per vos seu alios in genere moneatis quod ab hujusmodi injuria citius desistantes ea que illicite in hac parte percipere attemptarunt vobis nomine nostro restituant absque mora , alioquin omnes et singulos transgressores predictos cum suis consiliariis et fautoribus in dicta ecclesia de Cathorp' et singulis ecclesiis decanatus vestri tribus diebus dominicis sibi invicem succedentibus cum diebus festis intermediis intra missarum solempnia post lectum evangelium indicto silencio per vos seu alios , pulsatis campanis , candelis accensis , canonica monitione premissa solempniter in genere excommunicetis et excommunicatos esse faciatis publice nunciari parochianis ecclesie de Cathorp' predictae , expressius inhibentes ne hujusmodi presumptoribus qui manum rapidam ad contrectandum non sua sic extendere non verentur , nomine decime quicquam solvant , eisdem parochianis constare faciendo quod solutio sua liberationem eis non prestabit quin debitam decimam iterato persolvant . Et quid super hiis omnibus duxeritis faciendum nos litteris vestris patentibus harum seriem continentibus distincte et aperte certificetis tempore oportuno . Datum apud Nettelham XI kalendas Septembris mane , anno domini M.CCXC , et pontificatus nostri XI. .

¹ Blank in MS.

PRO TESTAMENTO RECTORIS ECCLESIE DE CATTHORP'. To the Dean of Lovedon, telling him to deal with all those who were preventing the terms of the will of Robert late rector of Caythorpe from being put into effect. He was to use ecclesiastical censure if necessary. Nettleham, August 22, 1290.

O. etc , decano de Luvedon' etc . Cum ad studium pertineat episcopale ultimas decedentium voluntates defendere et ne bona clericorum ecclesiastica et maxime defunctorum a quoquam contrectentur injuste curare cum effectu , et nonnulli ut audivimus fame sue prodigi fenum et bona alia ad Robertum nuper rectorem ecclesie de Cathorp' notorie spectantia in temeritate sua propria suis usibus applicant et de eisdem ordinant sicut volunt , propter quod ipsius Roberti testamenti executio dampnabiliter impeditur , vobis mandamus firmiter injungentes quod omnes hujusmodi presumptores vice et auctoritate nostra cum de eorundem nominibus innotuerit moneatis et efficaciter inducatis ut ab hujusmodi presumptionibus desistentes , omnino executoribus dicti testamenti de premissis sine more dispendio satisfaciant competenter . Alioquin ipsos ad hoc per quamcunque censuram ecclesiasticam ratione previa compellatis . Quid autem super hiis feceritis , nos litteris vestris patentibus , harum continentibus seriem et totum processum vestrum cum per partem dictorum executorum fueritis requisiti reddatis certiores . Datum ut supra proximo.

APPELLATIO A MANDATO ARCHIEPISCOPI CONTRA COMITEM CORNUBIE. Appeal to the pope against the mandate of Archbishop Pecham (given in full) telling Bishop Sutton and all other bishops in whose dioceses the earl had lands to order the Earl of Cornwall to return to his wife and treat her properly, and to excommunicate him if he did not. The mandate was received at Sleaford on August 9, 1290, and the appeal made on August 17.

In dei nomine amen . Cum nos Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus litteram quamdam reverendi patris domini J. dei gracia Cantuar' archiepiscopi totius Anglie primatis die veneris in crastino Sancti Laurencii martyris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo in castro nostro Lafford' nobis directam et exhibitam receperimus sub hac forma : — Frater J. permissione divina Cantuar' ecclesie minister humilis totius Anglie primas venerabili in Christo fratri domino¹ dei gracia Lincoln' episcopo salutem et sinceram in domino caritatem . Cum nos auditis et intellectis meritis cause seu negotii quo vel qua ex officio procedebatur coram nobis contra nobilem virum dominum Edmundum comitem Cornubie et nobilem mulierem dominam Margaretam de Clare uxorem ipsius tanquam in notorio facti actu permanentis quod propter sui evidenciam aliqua tergiversatione celari seu majores vel minores hujus regni

¹ Blank in MS.

prelatos et alios quoquomodo latere non poterat , cum nichil canonicum seu rationabile ex parte predicti comitis dictum seu propositum extitisset , quare uxori sui predictæ adherere et eam secundum legem matrimonii affectu pertractare maritali et quare per censuram ecclesiasticam de jure ad hoc non debet , licet ad id faciendum idem comes primo et secundo terminum habuisset peremptorie et precisum , proponente pluries et expresse in judicio confitente procuratore comitis predictæ dominam suam fuisse esse et fore in futurum paratam predicto comiti marito suo in omnibus legitime adherere et eum conjugali pertractare affectu , dum tamen de indemnitate sui corporis et servicia dicti mariti sui sufficienter et ydonee sibi caveretur , et nos consideratis periculis que iminent ex hoc facto et iminere verisimiliter poterunt non solum animarum sed etiam subite perturbationis totius regni necnon et grave scandalum jam ortum in clero et populo pro eo quod sine judicio et auctoritate ecclesie dictus comes dictam uxorem suam maritali affectione temeritate propria pertractare non curavit , et ne ex hoc predictis comiti et comitisse via vel occasio daretur quod absit liberius delinquendi debito ordine quod a jure requiritur observato in hujusmodi notorio facti actu permanentis de quo nobis et aliis majoribus et minoribus totius regni satis [*folio 8*] constat et constiterat ut premittitur evidenter , invocato dei nomine de jure peritorum nobis assistantium consilio predictos comitem et comitissam ut sibi adinvicem legitime adhererent et secundum legem et bonum matrimonii mutuo se maritali affectu pertractarent prout dictant canonice sanctiones per omnem censuram ecclesiasticam compellendos esse sentencialiter et diffinitive decreverimus , ipsosque comitem et comitissam ad hoc idem condemnaverimus justitia mediante , fraternitatem vestram rogamus , monemus et exhortamur in domino , vobis in virtute obediencie et sub pena canonice districtionis nichilominus firmiter injungendo quatinus dictum comitem si in vestra diocese personaliter inveniri poterit , alioquin in maneriis , castris , villis et locis suis ac ecclesiis solempnibus vestre diocesis quibus videritis expedire super quo vestram conscienciam volumus onerare , per vos et alios infra quatuor quinqueve dies a tempore receptionis presentium moneatis et efficaciter inducatis seu moneri et induci sollicitè faciatis ut comitissam predictam uxorem ejusdem infra viginti dies a tempore monitionis sibi hujusmodi faciende eidem reconciliet pleno jure ipsique adhereat ut uxori , et eandem maritali affectione in omnibus pertractando prout decet sibi necessaria administret , et alia omnia faciat secundum legem conjugii statusque et dignitatis et preminencie dictorum comitis et comitisse qualitatem que sanctorum patrum statuta et canonice precipiunt sanctiones , prestito¹ coram vobis in forma juris sufficienti et ydonea cautione predictæ comitisse de sui corporis indemnitate et servicia mariti ejusdem de qua

¹ *Sic, recte* 'prestita'.

satis a nonnullis verisimiliter dubitatur . Quod si dictus comes nostris et vestris monitis seu mandatis parere contempserit in hac parte , ipsum quem in hiis scriptis nunc excommunicamus presertim cum alias canonice rogatus et monitus sufficienterque extiterit ad premissa ex tunc in ecclesia vestra cathedrali ac aliis collegiatis conventualibus et parochialibus ecclesiis vestre diocesis coram clero et populo intra missarum solempnia excommunicatum denunciatis et denunciari publice et solempniter faciatis quousque super hoc a nobis aliud receperitis in mandatis . De die vero receptionis presentium et qualiter hoc nostrum mandatum fueritis executi nobis per litteras vestras patentes harum seriem continentes constare faciatis , quotiens ex parte dicte comitis super hoc fueritis requisiti . Datum apud Burn' II nonas Augusti anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo . — nos ex tenore ejusdem mandati perspicaciter attendentes nobis et nonnullis aliis consuffraganeis nostris in quorum diocesibus nobilis vir Edmundus comes Cornubie castra , maneria , villas et alia loca in quibus larem sepe fovet , et fortunarum suarum non modicam partem habet optinere dinoscitur ratione quorum nos et prenominati consuffraganei nostri Cantuar' provincie in eundem comitem et suos prout in diocesibus nostris consistunt ordinariam jurisdictionem habemus circa jus nostrum et ipsorum grande prejudicium generari et eo gravius si nos vel aliqui nostrum mandatum hujusmodi metropolitico nullum in se casum exprimens in quo liceat metropolitano in suorum suffraganeorum diocesibus circa personas et res existentes ibidem jurisdictionem aliquam vendicare , contra nobilem virum predictum notorie subditum nostrum et quorundam consuffraganeorum nostrorum ac eidem domino archiepiscopo nullo jure ordinario immediate subjectum executioni indebite contra justiciam mandaremus non solum in ejusdem comitis sed in nostram et aliorum consuffraganorum nostrorum quibus idem comes ordinario jure immediate¹ noscitur esse subjectus injuriam et offensam notorie manifestam propter quam injuriam , prejudicium et gravamen nos a predicto domino archiepiscopo sentientes nos indebite pregravari , nomine nostro et aliorum consuffraganeorum nostrorum quorum interest executionem non fieri demandatam hac die jovi proxime post festum assumptionis virginis gloriose eodem domini anno , ab ipso patre , predicto decreto , sententia et toto processu suo necnon et ab omni executione nobis taliter demandata in hiis scriptis solempniter et publice ad sedem apostolicam appellamus , protestantes de apostolis pro loco et tempore competenti petendis . Et quia exempla presentium et preteritorum cavere nos premonent in futurum , ne idem dominus archiepiscopus per se vel alium occasione aliquorum de predictis nobis seu aliis consuffraganeis nostris quorum interest in hoc casu contumaciam , inobedienciam , contemptum , negligencium vel offensam minus juste impingens

¹ Sic, recte ' immediate '.

suspensionis , interdicti seu majoris excommunicationis sentencias in nos seu aliquos nostrorum forsā fulminare preumat , aut aliquid aliud durum vel asperum contra nos vel aliquem nostrum statuere , mandare , precipere , decernere , sentenciare , interloqui vel exequi , denunciare seu puplicare , vel aliquid aliud occasione aliqua de predictis quomodolibet attemptare presumat seu hec fieri faciat sive mandet , consimiliter in hiis scriptis ad sanctam sedem apostolicam provocamus et etiam appellamus , ecclesiam nostram cathedralem , capellam nostram , personam nostram ac aliorum consuffraganeorum nostrorum quorum interest in hoc casu et omnium nostrorum seu nobis adherentium ac omnia bona nostra ecclesiastica et mundana et nostrorum et specialiter clericos , advocatos , consiliarios , procuratores et omnes familiares nostros protectioni et defensionī sedis apostolice ex nunc supponentes totaliter in hiis scriptis.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS PRO EPISCOPO. To the Dean of Christianity in Lincoln, telling him to cause an announcement to be made in English in all the churches of Lincoln to the effect that all who had stolen goods or money possessed by or due to the bishop, and all who knew of such thefts (except through the confessional) were to make restitution or declare their knowledge within a month, and to excommunicate those who remained obstinate. Louth, August 25, 1290.

O. permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilecto in Christo filio decano Christianitatis Lincoln' salutem , etc . Nemini venit in dubium quin rem alienam invadere et eam injuste detinere ad paria divino iudicio iudicentur . Et si hec in rebus prophanis dampnabilia reputentur , quanto magis in rebus quasi spiritualibus et ad iura pertinentibus ecclesiarum execrabilia sunt censenda [*folio 3^v*] nullus est sui compos qui hoc non intelligit dum prudenter attendit . Nacta igitur occasione ex frequenti relatione ad nos perlata de eo quod res , redditus et alia bona ad dignitatem episcopalem pertinentia que ab ecclesia Lincoln' dependent et ad illam proprie spectant in civitate et diocese Lincoln' a nonnullis per maliciam nobis et nostris prorsus in seipsis subtrahuntur injuste , ut populus contra periculum ex hoc iminens animarum sibi melius valeat precavere , et indemnitati juris pontificalis et ecclesie nostre prout possumus viis congruis prospiciamus , vobis in virtute obediencie firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus in singulis ecclesiis civitatis Lincoln' tribus diebus dominicis intra missarum solempnia presenti mandato in lingua materna palam exposito edictum monitorium proponi publice faciatis , quod omnes et singuli qui huiusmodi bona episcopalia sive in prestationibus annuis sive redditibus aut aliis hactenus temere¹ subtraxerunt , infra mensem a tempore

¹ Interlined.

noticie monitionis hujusmodi de subtractis satisfacere , eaque suis temporibus sicut decet solvere studeant in futuro , quodque omnes de hujusmodi bonis seu juribus sic subtractis conscii quovismodo , articulo confessionis duntaxat excepto , id quod noverunt in hac parte subtractum nobis aut nostris infra mensem pretactum fideliter revelare procurent , alioquin omnes hujusmodi subtractores et celatores tribus diebus dominicis in ecclesiis predictis et hora pretacta per vos et alios in genere excommunicetis , et usque ad satisfactionem condignam excommunicatos esse solempniter denunciari curetis . Datum apud Ludam , VIII kalendas Septembris pontificatus nostri anno undecimo.

CONTRA VENERANTES FONTEM QUI DICITUR SANCTI EDMUNDI OXON'. To the Archdeacon of Oxford, telling him to forbid, on pain of excommunication, the superstitious veneration of S. Edmund's well in a field near S. Clement's church outside Oxford. Louth, August 26, 1290.

O. etc , archidiacono Oxon' etc . Ad auditiam nostram nuper certa relatione pervenit quod nonnulli juxta suarum mentium inconstanciam quasi vento agitati a cultu fidei temere deviantes , locum quemdam in campo juxta ecclesiam Sancti Clementis extra municipium Oxon' fontem beati Edmundi vulgariter nuncupatum veluti locum sacrum venerari , illumque sub simulatione miraculorum que perpetrata fingunt ibidem causa devotionis erronee frequentare , ac populum non modicum illuc attrahendo hujusmodi figmentis dampnatis decipere immo pervertere noviter presumpserunt , errorem gentilium inter Christicolos introducere superstitiose conando . Nos vero hujusmodi incredulitatis perfidiam veluti contra fidem ecclesie et doctrinam apostolicam ne corde renatorum caligine heretice pravitatis obducat temporis per processum si forte radicari et germinare zizania permittantur , tortuoso serpente virus sui cautius ministrante fomentum eliminare et prorsus amputare deo propitio volentes , vobis firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus in singulis ecclesiis intra missarum solempnia et locis aliis archidiaconatus vestri in quibus videritis expedire per vos et alios firmiter inhibeatis , ne quis ad dictum locum causa venerationis ejusdem decetero convenire et illum superstitiose frequentare presumat sub pena excommunicationis majoris omnes et singulos contra hujusmodi inhibitionem scienter temere venientes dicta sententia comminata solempniter in genere innodantes , donec de culpa contriti beneficium absolutionis meruerint optinere . Valete . Datum apud Ludam VII kalendas Septembris pontificatus nostri anno undecimo.

PRO RECTORE DE FERINGFORD'. To the Archdeacon of Oxford, telling him to allow Thomas rector of Fringingford to have all the

fruits of his church except the stipends of those actually ministering there, if the said rector were in the charge of responsible people. Louth, August 24, 1290.

O. etc , archidiacono Oxon' etc . Quia datum est nobis intelligi quod Thomas rector ecclesie de Feringford' pro quo valde graves persone quibus in hiis que secundum deum possemus libenter placere vellemus , nos nuper affectuose rogarunt pro impensis circa curationem suam et etiam sustentationem in necessariis pro tempore retroacto amicis suis qui ipsum exhibuerunt et precipue Willelmo de Hatch' plurimum obligatur , vobis mandamus quatinus si dictum rectorem cum talibus putaveritis morari qui eum in necessariis fideliter exhibere et bona ejusdem convertere in usus ipsius verisimiliter volunt , eundem rectorem fructus ecclesie sue salvo stipendio ministrorum ejusdem integraliter percipere libere permittatis , donec a nobis aliud receperitis in mandatis . Valet . Datum apud Ludam , IX kalendas Septembris pontificatus nostri anno undecimo.

THORNTON'. Note of the resignation of Walter, Abbot of Thornton on account of ill-health. Louth, August 24, 1290. Two letters are included :—(1) Sutton's letter accepting the abbot's resignation, dated at Louth, August 25, and (2) Sutton's letter to the prior and convent of Thornton, telling them to proceed without delay to elect a new abbot. Louth, August 26. A note has been added at the end of the folio stating that the canons obtained from the bishop letters patent ratifying the resignation at Stow Park on September 8.

Memorandum quod IX kalendas Septembris anno XI apud Ludam oblata episcopo cessione fratris Walteri abbatis de Thornton' per litteram ipsius patentem , et de causa cessionis hujusmodi quam idem abbas in littera sua pretendebat facta eidem¹ episcopo fide plena , scriptum fuit ipsi abbati in hac forma :—Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilecto in Christo filio domino W. abbati monasterii de Thornton' salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Quia cessionem officii tui seu regiminis dicti monasterii ob corporis tue impotenciam nobis nuper pure ac sponte cum instancia obtulisti , ut debilitati tue paterno compateamur affectu , tue supplicationis instancia quasi devicti hujusmodi cessionem tuam nobis canonice oblatam admittentes ad presens , te ab officio tuo et sollicitudine regiminis dicte domus auctoritate pontificali absolvimus per presentes . Datum apud Ludam , VIII kalendas Septembris , anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo et pontificatus nostri undecimo.—Scriptum etiam fuit priori et conventui ejusdem sub hac forma :—O. etc , priori et conventui de Thornton' etc . Quia cessionem fratris Walteri nuper abbatis vestri nobis pure ac sponte

¹ Interlined.

cum instancia oblatam , ut debilitati ejusdem paterno compateremur affectu , supplicationis ipsius instancia quasi devicti duximus admittendum , ipsum ab officio suo sollicitudine regiminis domus vestre auctoritate pontificali totaliter absolventes , vobis mandamus quod ad electionem futuri abbatis in forma debita prout moris est cum ea celeritate qua decet procedere non tardetis . Valete . Datum apud Ludam VII kalendas Septembris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo et pontificatus nostri undecimo . ¹Postmodum VI idus Septembris apud Parcum Stowe optinuerunt canonici instanter petentes litteram patentem super admissione cessionis predictæ.¹

[Folio 9]

COMMISSIO. Commission to the Dean of Yarborough to hear and settle the dispute between Master Simon rector of Aylesby and certain people from neighbouring villages who pastured their sheep in Aylesby for most of the year and refused to pay tithe of them to the rector. Louth, August 26, 1290.

O. etc , decano de Jordeburg' salutem , etc. Dilectus in Christo filius magister Simon rector ecclesie de Alesby nobis nuper exposuit quod nonnulli de villis ibidem vicinis bidentes pascentes in parochia de Alesby pro magna parte anni habentes pro tempore dicti rectoris decimam debitam ecclesie sue de Alesby juxta loci consuetudinem laudabilem et approbatam sibi solvere hactenus recusarunt pluries requisiti , in ejusdem rectoris et ecclesie predictæ prejudicium non modicum et animarum hujusmodi decimam subtrahentium periculum per quam grave . Nos vero indemnitati dictæ ecclesie et periculo animarum prout possumus prospicere cupientes , ad examinandum causam inter dictum rectorem et detentores hujusmodi subditos nostros quoscumque necnon decernendum et diffiniendum cum debita maturitate in hoc casu quod canonicum fuerit , vocatis vocandis , vobis vices nostras cum cohercionis canonice potestate committimus per presentes . Datum apud Ludam VII kalendas Septembris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo.

BENEDICTIO ABBATIS DE HAGNABY. Note of the benediction of John abbot of Hagnaby. Louth, August 27, 1290.

ABSOLUTIO RICARDI DICTI BISCOP. Note of the absolution, by Ralph of Tofts the bishop's penitentiary, of Richard Bishop of Fulstow from the sentence of excommunication which he had incurred by consenting to the forcible dragging out of a fugitive seeking sanctuary in Fulstow churchyard. Richard Bishop was to receive five beatings on five Sundays in Fulstow churchyard, and the parish priest of Fulstow was ordered to see that the penance was carried out. Hagworthlingham, August 30, 1290.

¹⁻¹ Interlined at the end of the folio.

II kalendas Septembris anno XI apud Haggewurthingham absolutus fuit auctoritate pontificali per fratrem Radulphum de Toftes penitenciarium Episcopi Ricardus dictus Biscop de Foulestowe a sententia majoris excommunicationis quam incurrerat pro eo quod extractionem confugientis ad ecclesiam de Foulestowe de cimiterio ejusdem consentiendo immunitatem ecclesie violaret , injuncto sibi preter penitenciam privatam quod per quinque dies dominicos ecclesiam de Foulestowe ante processionem discalciatus et denudatus solis braccis retentis publice fustigandus circumiret , causa parochianis per capellanum exponenda , et scriptum fuit capellano parochie de Foulestowe quod dictum Ricardum publice denunciaret absolutum et eundem per censuram ecclesiasticam compelleret ad penitenciam pretactam peragendum.

DISPENSATIO SUPER DEFECTU NATALIUM ET IRREGULARITATE. Dispensation to Henry Bell (Belle) of Humberstone (Humberston') chaplain, for bastardy, ministration in orders received without such a dispensation, and receiving ordination from the Bishop of Aberdeen without letters dimissory. Henry Bell received a penance and was suspended from ministration until Michaelmas ; he was also forbidden to hold a cure of souls until he could prove that he was sufficiently literate. Stow Park, September 7, 1290.

ABSOLUTIO RICARDI DE EMPINGHAM. Note of the absolution, by Ralph of Toftes the bishop's penitentiary, of Richard son of Henry of Empingham from the sentence of excommunication which he had incurred by assaulting a clerk in Empingham church. Richard was to appear in Empingham church as a penitent and receive five beatings on the hands on five successive Sundays, and on three of them he was to make offerings and kneel before the altar from the end of the Gospel until after the Elevation of the Host. The Archdeacon of Northampton was ordered to see that the penance was carried out. Stow Park, September 7, 1290.

Eisdem die et loco absolutus fuit auctoritate pontificali per fratrem Radulphum de Toftes penitenciarium episcopi Ricardus filius Henrici de Empingham a sententia majoris excommunicationis quam incurrerat pro eo quod in quemdam clericum habentem primam tonsuram in ecclesia de Empingham usque ad aliqualem sanguinis effusionem citra omnimodam lesionem difficilem et enormem manus violentas iniecit , constante prius per litteram archidiaconi Norhamt' quod leso satisfecit , injuncto sibi preter penitenciam privatam quod quinque diebus dominicis post processionem ante incoationem¹ misse coram magno altari in ecclesia predicta a manu sacerdotis super manus quinque reciperet disciplinas ita quod singulis diebus predictis² singulas disciplinas sustineret ,

¹ Sic, recte ' incoationem '.

² Interlined.

ac tribus diebus dominicis de predictis post evangelium offereret , quo facto continue usque post elevationem hostie salutaris ante altare genuflecteret nisi rationabiliter existeret impeditus , et scriptum fuit archidiacono Norhamt' quod denunciaret eum taliter absolutum et compelleret ad dictam penitenciam peragendum.

DIMISSORIE ROGERI DE INSULA. Letters dimissory to Roger Delisle (de Insula), clerk, who had been presented to the church of Althorpe (Althorp'), enabling him to be ordained to any minor orders which he had not yet received and to the subdiaconate, provided that he did so at the forthcoming September ordinations. Sibsey, September 2, 1290.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Roger of Steeping (Steeping'), acolyte, to receive all holy orders from any bishop of the province of Canterbury. Nettleham, September 6, 1290.

PRIVILEGIUM TEMPLARIORUM. Copy of an indulgence issued by Pope Alexander IV to the Templars in England, permitting them to keep their churches vacant for forty days and enjoy the revenues, provided that they presented a suitable candidate to the diocesan bishop before the end of that period. Lateran, December 10, 1255.

Alexander episcopus servus servorum dei dilectis filiis fratribus militie Templi per Angliam constitutis salutem et apostolicam benedictionem . Attendentes quam devote et laudabiliter pietatis operibus et defensionis Christiani nominis in transmarinis partibus insistatis , iustis postulationibus vestris libenter annuimus vobisque contra indebitas molestias in quantum cum deo possumus provide-
mus . Unde quia ad auditiam apostolatus nostri pervenit quod decentibus ecclesiarum vestrarum rectoribus , episcopi et officiales eorum ipsarum nonnunquam ordinationem differunt et fructus in usus proprios pro sua voluntate convertunt ad instar felicitis recordationis Urbani pape predecessoris nostri auctoritate vobis presencium indulgemus ut cum ecclesie vestre vacaverint liceat vobis eas per XL dies in manibus vestris sine contradictione aliqua retinere , ita quod infra eundem terminum a vobis rector idoneus diocesano episcopo presentetur . Nulli ergo omnino hominum liceat hanc paginam nostre [folio 5^v] concessionis infringere , etc . Siquis autem , etc . Datum Lateran' IIII idus Decembris pontificatus nostri anno primo.

COMMISSIO. Commission to the Master of Nun Coton (Cotun), the Dean of Yarborough (Jordeburg') and Master Simon rector of Aylesby (Alesby) to discharge William son of Simon and his fellow-executors of the wills of Roger Mote of Croxton and Philippa his

wife, after consultation with the executors of the will of Walter brother of the said Roger Mote who had been one of his executors. Stow Park, September 8, 1290.

CONSTITUTIO CONSTABULARII. To the tenants of the manor of Sleaford, announcing the appointment of Robert de Calnton' as bailiff of Sleaford and constable of Sleaford castle. Stow Park, September 9, 1290.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Master Richard Inge, rector of Wymington, subdeacon, to receive the diaconate and priesthood, provided that he should swear an oath, within a month from the time when the first year of his tenure of the church should come to an end, that he had received these orders. The date of his institution, February 25, 1289, was noted. Stow Park, September 8, 1290.

PROCURATORIUM AD IMPETRANDUM.¹ Letters patent appointing as proctors of the bishop and the church of Lincoln Master Reginald of S. Alban's, Master Robert de Flammeville and Master Reginald de Podiobonicii. Stow Park, September 11, 1290.

Universis ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus salutem in domino sempiternam. Noverit universitas vestra quod nos dilectos nobis in Christo magistros Reginaldum de Sancto Albano, Robertum de Flammavill' et Reginaldum de Podiobonicii conjunctim et divisim ad impetrandum nostro nomine et ecclesie nostre Lincoln' litteras justicie communis et gracie etiam ejuscumque, necnon ad contradicendum impetrationibus quorumcumque contra nos vel ecclesiam nostram antedictam volentium impetrare, et ad consentiendum in judices et in loca conveniendos, nostros procuratores per presentes fecimus speciales. Dantes eisdem et eorum unique potestatem excipiendi et replicandi, alium procuratorium loco suo substituendi et revocandi quotiens et quoniam eis videbitur expedire, et omnia alia facienda que ad nostram et ecclesie nostre defensionem cedere possit in hac parte, et que necessaria fuerint circa premissa utilia seu etiam oportuna. Et promittimus ratum et firmum habere quicquid predicti procuratores nostri vel eorum aliquis duxerint vel duxerit facere in premissis. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum. Datum apud Parcum Stowe III idus Septembris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo.

[SAME HEADING.] Note that on the same day Stephen the messenger started off for Rome, taking with him certificates of the collation of the archdeaconry of Buckingham and the prebends

¹ There is a drawing of a hand in the margin.

of Aylesbury and Milton and the business of the prebend of Nassington. He also took the letter of which the previous entry is a copy, together with a letter close addressed to Master Reginald of S. Alban's and certain other documents.

Eisdem die , anno et loco arripuit Stephanus nuncius iter versus curiam Romanam et habuit secum unum certificatorium de collatione archidiaconatus Buck' et prebendarum de Eylesbir' et de Milton . Item aliud certificatorium de facto prebende de Nassington' et instrumentum pupplicum super eodem facto confectum una cum transumpto¹ ejusdem instrumenti . Habuit etiam procuratorium prescriptum una cum quadam littera clausa magistro Reginaldo de Sancto Albano directa.

INDULGENCIA. Grant of twenty days' indulgence to all confessed and contrite persons who should say a Pater and an Ave for the soul of Emma wife of John of Holt, whose body is buried in the Franciscan church at Leicester. Ratification of all other indulgences which had been or should be granted for the same reason. Stow Park, September 11, 1290.

DISSORIE. Letters dimissory to the Abbot of Eynsham, giving him licence to have two members of the community, Thomas of Spalding and Peter of Crowland (Croyland') ordained to the priesthood by the Bishop of Worcester at the forthcoming September ordinations. Stow Park, September 15, 1290.

DISSORIE. Letters dimissory to William son of Roger of Hambleton (Hamelton') rector of Whissendine (Wissendon'), deacon, to be ordained to the priesthood by the Archbishop of York, provided that he should take an oath, before the feast of S. Martin (November 11), that he had done so. Newark, September 18, 1290.

LICENCIA STUDENDI. Licence to Ralph rector of Fulbeck (Fulebek') to spend one year from the ensuing Michaelmas in the study of theology, provided that he made proper arrangements for the care of his parish. Letters patent were issued to him. Newark, September 18, 1290.

DISSORIE SIVE LICENCIA CONCESSA DOMINO BATH' ORDINANDI ETC. To the Bishop of Bath and Wells, giving him licence to ordain all those of the King's clerks, beneficed in the diocese of Bath and Wells, who would normally be bound to come to the Bishop of Lincoln for ordination since they were born in his diocese. The ordinations were to take place on the next ordination day, and the Bishop of Bath and Wells was to send to the Bishop of Lincoln a

¹ Sic. For 'transcript' ?

list of the persons ordained and of the orders which they had received. Newark, September 18, 1290.

Venerabili in Christo patri domino¹ dei gracia Bathon' et Wellen' episcopo , Oliverus eadem permissione Lincoln' ecclesie sacerdos salutem et seipsum ad vota promptissimum cum honore . 'Quieti clericorum carissimi domini nostri regis in hiis que possumus prospicere cupientes , ut hujusmodi clericos in diocese vestra beneficiatos , qui ad ordines suscipiendos ratione statuti ultimi concilii Lugdun' tenentur astricti , die Sabbati quatuor temporum jam instanti , ne ab obsequiis domini nostri predicti abstrahantur ad nos remotius veniendo , ordinare [*folio 10*] libere valeatis dum tamen de nominibus et personis ordinandorum ac ordinibus suscipiendis ab eisdem ante diem predictum si commode fieri valeat vel etiam postmodum cum hoc facere melius decreveritis plenius certificemur , et aliud eis canonicum non obsistat , ex confidentia et affectione quam ad vos gerimus , vobis prout nuperrime postulastis et etiam iditis clericis , ut per manuumstrarum vestrarum impositionem ordines sibi convenientes suscipere valeant ista vice , licenciam concedimus per presentes . Valeat paternitas vestra per tempora longiora . Datum apud Neuwerk XIII kalendas Octobris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo.

COMMISSIO MAGISTERII HOSPICII DE NEUWERK. Commission to Henry Puleyn, chaplain, of the office of master of the hospital of S. Leonard at Newark. Newark, September 18, 1290.

COMMISSIO AUDITIONIS RATIOCINIORUM. Commission to the Abbot of S. James outside Northampton (Norhamt') and to the Deans of Northampton and Preston to discharge the master of the hospital of S. John at Northampton and his fellow-executors of the will of Master Robert of Northampton rector of Helmdon (Helmeden'). Liddington, September 23, 1290.

BENEDICTIO ABBATIS. Note of the benediction of Richard, Abbot of La Dale in Derbyshire, in virtue of letters dimissory from the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield. Liddington, September 21, 1290.

XI kalendas Octobris anno XI apud Lidington' frater Ricardus clectus abbas de La Dale Premonstratensium ordinis Coventr' et Lichefeld' diocesis recepit benedictionem solempnem ab episcopo virtute quarundam litterarum dimissoriarum Coventr' et Lich' episcopi quarum est talis tenor :—Rogerus permissione divina Coventr' et Lich' episcopus dilecto in Christo filio fratri Ricardo electo in abbatem de La Dale salutem , graciam et benedictionem . Ut a quocumque episcopo Cantuar' provincie graciam apostolice

¹ Blank in MS.

sedis optinente munus benedictionis accipere possis liberam tibi tenore presencium concedimus facultatem . In cujus rei testimonium has litteras nostras tibi fieri fecimus patentes . Datum apud Mallowe die Sabbati proxime post Exaltationem Sancte Crucis , anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo . Et profitebatur idem frater Ricardus episcopo Coventr' et Lich' fidem et canonicam subjectionem salvo ordine suo.

PRO PHILIPPO DE MALBERTHORP' CLERICO. To all the archdeacons of the diocese and their officials. Testimonial to the fact that Philip of Mablethorpe had received the subdiaconate from Bishop Gravesend of Lincoln and the diaconate and priesthood at the Roman curia in virtue of letters dimissory issued by Bishop Sutton. Philip had produced letters testifying to his ordination at Rome, and a letter from Master Reginald of S. Alban's bearing witness to the genuineness of the seal. Liddington, September 21, 1290.

O. etc , dilectis in Christo filiis universis archidiaconis per Lincoln' diocesem constitutis et eorum officialibus salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Quoniam de ordine subdiaconatus Philippi de Malberthorp' nostre diocesis tempore proximi predecessoris nostri rite suscepto necnon de ordinibus diaconatus et presbiteratus ejusdem quos per litteras nostras dimissorias recepit , nobis est sufficiens facta fides , vobis mandamus quatinus eundem Philippum ad executionem dictorum ordinum in nostra diocese sine cura tamen parochiali donec gratiam uberiores habere meruerit quamdiu bene et honeste se habuerit aliudque canonicum non obsisterit admittatis . Valete . Datum apud Lidington' XI kalendas Octobris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo et pontificatus nostri XI . Et est sciendum quod ad ordines diaconatus et presbiteratus promotus fuit in curia Romana cum dimissoriis domini nunc episcopi et de eisdem habuit litteram ordinantis et fidem fecit per litteras magistri Reginaldi de Sancto Albano de sigillo.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to William of Aldwinkle (Aldewynkle) acolyte. Tinwell, September 23, 1290.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to William Griffyn of Aylestone (Ayleston') clerk. Tinwell, September 23, 1290.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to John of Baldock (Baldak') clerk. Tinwell, September 24, 1290.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to Walter of North Stoke (Stokebasset), son of a deacon and an unmarried woman. Tinwell, September 24, 1290.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Richard of Irchester (Irncestr') subdeacon, to receive the diaconate and priesthood. Tinwell, September 24, 1290.

ABSOLUTIO WILLELMI BURNEL. Testimonial to the fact that William Burnel had been absolved from the sentence of excommunication which he had incurred by assaulting John Payn rector of Bosworth. Nettleham, August 19, 1290.

Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis ad quos presentes littere pervenerint , Oliverus permissione divina Linclon' episcopus salutem in domino sempiternam . Volentes veritati testimonium perhibere , universitati vestre innotescimus per presentes quod nos Willelmum Burnel latorem presentium a majoris excommunicationis sententia quam pro violenta manuum injectione in Johannem Payn rectorem ecclesie de Boreswrth' nostre diocesis incurrit , in casu nobis a jure concesso satisfacto prius leso in forma juris duximus absolvendum . In cujus rei testimonium has litteras nostras sibi fieri fecimus patentes . Datum apud Nettelham die Sabbati proxime post festum assumptionis Beate Marie , anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo.

[*folio 10^v*]

BENEDICTIO ABBATIS. Note of the benediction of Eustace Abbot of Garendon. The form of his oath is given in full. Tinwell, September 24, 1290.

VIII kalendas Octobris anno XI apud Tinwelle recepit frater Eustachius electus in abbatem de Gerudon' benedictionem solempnem ab episcopo et profitebatur sub hac forma :—Ego frater Eustachius abbas Gerudon' subjectionem , reverenciam et obedienciam a sanctis patribus constitutam¹ secundum regulam Sancti Benedicti tibi domine pater Olivere episcopo tuisque successoribus canonice substituendis et sancte sedi Lincoln' salvo ordine nostro perpetuo me exhibiturum promitto.

PRO RECTORE DE SITHESTAN. To the Dean of Grantham, telling him to sequester all the goods which Master Stephen of Rockland the late rector of Syston possessed in his deanery, since the defects which the late rector had left in the church of Syston were estimated at ten pounds and there was no other revenue from which they could be made good. Liddington, September 26, 1290.

O. etc , decano de Graham salutem , etc . Cum defectus in domibus et ornamentis ecclesie de Sithestan' nostre diocesis pro tempore quo quondam magister Stephanus de Rokelund' jam defunctus eam tenuit existentes ad decem libras per officialem

¹ *Sic.* Not 'constitutas' which would seem more reasonable.

archidiaconi Leye' sint taxati , ac executores dicti defuncti de bonis ejusdem nichil habeant in nostra diocese nisi apud Calstwrth' prout ex quorundam relatione fidedignorum didicimus , nos plenius attendentes quod de dilapidatione bonorum hujusmodi de quibus super reparatione dictorum defectuum debita satisfactio deberet impendi verisimiliter sit timendum , vobis in virtute obediencie firmiter injungentes mandamus quatinus omnia bona dicti defuncti que in vestro decanatu poterint inveniri vice nostra sequestrare curetis , et sub arto custodiri sequestro , donec super hoc a nobis aliud habueritis in mandatis . Quid autem inde feceritis nos per litteras vestras patentes harum seriem continentes certiores reddatis cum per rectorem ecclesie de Sithestan' supradicte fueritis congrue requisiti . Datum apud Lidington' VI kalendas Octobris pontificatus nostri anno XI.

LICENCIA RECONCILIATIONIS. Licence to the rector of Bolingbroke (Bulingbrok') to have his churchyard, which had been desecrated by bloodshed, reconciled by any Catholic bishop. Liddington, September 26, 1290.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Master Thomas Malerb' subdeacon, rector of Bottesford (Botenesford'), to receive the diaconate and priesthood, provided that within a month of the anniversary of his institution he should take an oath that he had done so. The date of his institution, July 21, 1290, was noted. Haddenham, October 3, 1290.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Thomas son of Robert of Crowland (Croyland') acolyte, to receive all holy orders. Haddenham, October 3, 1290.

CONCESSIO CANTARIE. To Adam of Arden, giving him licence to have a private chapel in his manor-house at Gayton since the road to the parish church was long and difficult to traverse, especially in time of winter. Haddenham, October 3, 1290.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilecto in Christo filio Ade de Ardern' nostre diocesis salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Devotionem tuam qua divinis cupis sepius interesse , distanciamque manerii tui de Gayton' ab ecclesia matrice ejusdem , ac difficultatem itineris intermedii ejusdem saltem tempore yemali propensius attendentes , ut in oratorio infra manerium tuum predictum constructo , dum tamen decens fuerit et honestum , divina tibi et libere familie tue per sacerdotem propriis sumptibus exhibendum licite facias celebrari , concurrente ad hoc rectoris ecclesie de Gayton' predictae consensu , liberam facultatem usque ad nostre voluntatis beneplacitum concedimus per presentes ,

ita tamen quod nullimodis sacramentis ecclesiasticis in dicto oratorio ministratis , tu ipse et libera familia tua ecclesiam tuam matricem predictam ut debitus honor servetur eidem in majoribus anni solempnitatibus cessante impedimento legitimo personaliter adeatis , quodque singuli capellani in oratorio predicto celebraturi in sui adventus principio de restituendis rectori matricis ecclesie prefate oblationibus in dicto oratorio faciendis , et indemnitati ipsius ecclesie in aliis in dicti rectoris seu locum suum tenentis presencia prestant ad sancta dei ewangelia juramentum . In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum . Actum et datum apud Hadenham . V nonas Octobris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo et pontificatus nostri undecimo.

COMMISSIO. Commission to Master William of Thornton and Master William of Langworth (Langewath'), canons of Lincoln, to try the case which had arisen, over a will, between the Abbot and convent of Revesby on the one hand and Richard Hogg and his fellow-executors of the will of John of Edlington (Edelington') on the other. S. Ives, October 4, 1290.

LICENCIA STUDENDI. Licence to William de Hastang', rector of Great Coates (Magna Cotes), to leave his parish for one year in order to study theology or canon law at Oxford or Cambridge. Buckden, October 6, 1290.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to Richard of Kilworth (Kivelingwrth'). Buckden, October 6, 1290.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dismissory to Simon Wlwin¹ of Peterborough (Burgum Sancti Petri) subdeacon to receive the diaconate and priesthood. Buckden, October 6, 1290.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation to Adam of Meppershall (Mapertishale), subdeacon, for having received the subdiaconate from the Bishop of Ely without letters dismissory. Buckden, October 14, 1290.

[*folio 11*]

PROCURATORIUM. Letters patent appointing Master Robert of Kilworth proctor of the bishop and of the church of Lincoln with full powers. It was provided that the authority of the bishop's proctors at the Roman curia should not be affected by this appointment. Buckden, October 9, 1290.

Pateat universis et singulis quod nos Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus in omnibus causis et negotiis motis et movendis nos et ecclesiam nostram qualitercumque contingentibus coram

¹ *Sic.*

quibuscumque iudicibus quibuscumque diebus et locis , dilectum nobis in Christo magistrum Robertum de Kivelingworth' procuratorem nostram constituimus , facimus et ordinamus , dantes eidem potestatem et specialem mandatum nomine nostro agendi , defendendi , appellandi , appellationem prosequendi in integrum restitutionem , statusque nostri reformationem quotiens opus fuerit , ac expensas petendi et recipiendi , tam de calumpnia quam de veritate dicendi , et cujuslibet alterius generis juramentum in animam nostram jurandi , alium procuratorem loco suo substituendi et substitutum revocandi ac procuratoris officium resumendi , et etiam omnia alia faciendi que nos facere possemus si presentes essemus , pro eodem etiam et ejus substituto rem ratam haberi et iudicatum solvi sub ypotheca rerumstrarum permittimus . Hoc idem iudicibus partibus adversis , et omnibus aliis quorum interest tenore presencium significamus , mandatis procuratorum nostrorum in curia Romana in suo robore nichilominus duraturis . In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum . Datum apud Buckeden' , nonas Octobris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo.

PRO DOMO DE WILEMUNDELE. To the vicar of Dinsley (Dinnesle), appointing him curator of Wymondley priory until a new prior should be elected. Buckden, October 9, 1290.

COMMISSIO. Commission to Master William of Thornton and Master William of Langworth (Langewath') canons of Lincoln, to discharge William of Geddington (Geytington') chaplain and his fellow-executors of the will of Sir Hugh de Charnels, knight, and to report to the bishop by letter. Buckden, October 9, 1290.

LICENCIA AGENDI CURAM PAROCHIALEM PER ANNUM TANTUM. Licence to William of Tallington, chaplain, to undertake the cure of souls in the parish of Folksworth until Michaelmas 1291 at the rector's responsibility. William was to undertake no further cure of souls until he had been examined. Buckden, October 9, 1290.

O. etc , dilecto in Christo filio Willelmo de Talington' nostre diocesis capellano salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Ad celebrandum divina sine qualibet cura parochiale donec gratiam uberiores haberes auctoritate apostolica nobis in hac parte commissa tecum dudum dispensantes , ut ex nunc usque ad festum Sancti Michaelis proxime futurum curam parochialem ecclesie de Folkesworth' sub rectore ejusdem et periculo suo , qui se pro majore parte anni in eadem parochia residere promisit , agere valeas te certa consideratione licenciamus de gracia speciali , curam parochialem ex tunc donec examinationem subiens licenciam ulteriorem merueris optinere tibi interdicentes expresse . Datum apud Buckeden' VII

idus Octobris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo et pontificatus nostri undecimo.

PRO DEFECTIBUS DE WHETHAMSTED' EMENDANDIS. To the official of the Archdeacon of Huntingdon or the Dean of Berkhamstead, ordering the sequestration of the goods of the late Master John of Leicester, rector of Wheathampstead, so that payment might be made for the repair of the dilapidations which he had left in the church of Wheathampstead and the buildings connected with the priest's house. Buckden, October 13, 1290. A marginal note states that the injunction was re-issued, with a slight change of wording, at Fingest on January 7, 1291.

O. etc ,¹ officiali archidiaconi Hunt' vel¹ decano de Berchamstede . Intelleximus ex relatione quorundam quod quondam magister Johannes de Leyc' rector ecclesie de Whet-hamstede plures defectus notabiles in cancello dicte ecclesie et ornamentis ejusdem ac domibus pertinentibus ad rectoriam eandem dimisit incorrectos , necnon quedam edificia in mansis prefate ecclesie utilia totaliter diruebat , quorum loco nulla hactenus construebat . Nos vero indempnitati dicte ecclesie in hiis sine cujusquam injuria seu juris offensa prospicere cupientes , vobis mandamus firmiter injungendo quatinus bona ad dictum defunctum spectantia saltem usque ad estimationem hujusmodi defectuum si quos ibidem esse compareritis qui de bonis dicti defuncti refici de jure debebunt sicut refertur artius sequestretis , donec defectus predicti in forma debita corrigantur vel de eisdem emendandis per executores prefati defuncti cautum fuerit sufficienter . Et quid inde feceritis nobis fideliter rescribatis tempore oportuno . Datum apud Buckeden' III idus Octobris pontificatus nostri anno XI. ²Postmodum VII idus Januarii anno XI apud Tyngehist' scriptum fuit iterato dicto officiali vel decano sub verbis predictis additis illis verbis ante illa verba 'artius sequestretis' 'sive in nominibus debitorum consistant sive in aliis'.²

SEQUESTRUM IN ECCLESIA DE BOUDON'. To the official of the Archdeacon of Leicester, ordering the sequestration of all the fruits and revenues of the church of Bowden received since the quindene of Michaelmas, because Master Nicholas de Luvetoft, who had been presented to the church when a minor, had received the living of Adlingfleet in the diocese of York and did not wish to be instituted to Bowden. The official was to report by letter to the bishop before All Saints' Day (November 1). Buckden, October 15, 1290.

O. etc , officiali archidiaconi Leic' . Quia magister Nicholaus de Luvetoft ad parochialem ecclesiam de Boudon' in minoribus

¹ Blank in MS.

²⁻² Interlined in the margin.

annis dudum presentatus , quibus quidem ecclesie et persone certum custodem usque ad legitimam etatem ejusdem presentati [*folio 11^r*] commisimus de gracia speciali , nunc major effectus et parochialem ecclesiam de Adelingflet Ebor' diocesis nuper adeptus pleno jure institutionem in dicta ecclesia de Boudon' licet ad illam sibi canonice faciendum pluries optulerimus nos paratos a nobis recipere recusavit expresse , vobis mandamus quatinus omnes fructus et proventus dicte ecclesie de Boudon' post quindenam Sancti Michaelis proxime preteritam perceptos et decetero et hujusmodi vacatione durante percipiendos artius sequestratis et sub arto sequestro firmiter tenentes quousque aliud a nobis receperitis in mandatis , prefatum magistrum Nicholaum de fructibus ejusdem ecclesie de Boudon' ante quindenam predictam perceptis de nostra gracia speciali disponere libere permittatis . Et quid inde feceritis nos citra festum Omnium Sanctorum proxime futurum certiores reddatis per litteras vestras patentes harum seriem continentes . Valete . Datum apud Buckeden' idus Octobris pontificatus nostri anno XI.

COMMISSIO. Commission to the precentor (Adam of Brampton), the Archdeacon of Huntingdon and the Archdeacon of Stow to try all cases arising out of the wills of Roger son of Benedict and Adam of the Hospital (de Hospicio), citizens of Lincoln. Buckden, October 14, 1290.

COMMISSIO. To the same, to try charges of fornication brought against Richard de Beauso, Eve of Beverley, John de Beauso and others accused of being the lovers of Lady Langley, Maud of London and her lovers, Master John le Canur and the lady who posed as his wife in the city of Lincoln. Buckden, October 14, 1290.

O. etc , ut supra proxime . In omnibus causis et negotiis motis seu movendis ex officio nostro contra Ricardum de Beauso et Evam de Beverlaco super crimine incontencie et contra Johannem de Beauso et quoscumque alios notatos super crimine incontencie cum domina de Langele. Item et contra Matildem dictam de London' moram trahentem in civitatem Lincoln' et quosdam alios notatos de incontencia cum eadem , necnon in causa mota seu movenda ac negotio moto seu movendo ex officio nostro contra magistrum Johannem le Canur et illam que se gerit pro uxore sua in civitate Lincoln' vel jure actionis seu denunciationis inter eosdem , quibuscumque diebus et locis , vobis vices nostras cum coercicionis canonice potestate tenore presencium duximus committenda . Quod si non omnes hiis interfueritis exequendis , duo vestrum ea nichilominus exequantur . Valete . Datum apud Bukkeden' II idus Octobris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo.

DISPENSATIO SIMONIS DE WLSISTON. Dispensation to Simon of Woolstone, chaplain, in virtue of a papal bull, for having been

ordained to the subdiaconate by the Bishop of Kildare and to the diaconate and priesthood by the Bishop of Ferentino without letters dimissory, and for having ministered in orders so received without a dispensation. Simon said that he had received a dispensation from Bishop Gravesend, but no trace of this could be found in the register. Buckden, October 17, 1290.

XVI kalendas Novembris apud Bukkeden venit Simon de Wliston' capellanus exhibens bullam Alexandri pape episcopo Lincoln' directam pro dispensatione cum dicto Simone facienda super eo quod absque diocesani sui licencia ab Episcopis Dar' ad subdiaconatus et Ferent' in partibus Italie ad diaconatus et presbyteratus ordines se promoveri fecit, et in eisdem ministravit ac se divinis immiscuit dispensatione primitus non obtenta, asserens secum fuisse dispensatum super premissis per episcopum Ricardum. Set quia examinato ipsius Ricardi registro non inveniebatur quod dicto Simoni sufficebat in hoc casu, episcopus secum dispensavit ex habundanti super premissis, concedens sibi executionem suorum ordinum cum cura et sine.

COMMISSIO. To master Henry of Nassington, canon of Lincoln and official of the bishop. Commission to act for the bishop in all matters concerning the lawsuit between Edmund Earl of Cornwall and Margaret de Clare his wife. (Bishop Sutton, together with the Bishops of Winchester and Salisbury, had been appointed papal judge-delegate to deal with this case.) Ramsey, October 24, 1290.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus una cum reverendis patribus dominis¹ Wynton' et¹ Sar' episcopis iudex a sede apostolica delegatus, magistro Henrico de Nassington' canonico Lincoln' et officiali nostro salutem in domino sempiternam. In omnibus causis et negotiis appellationum motis auctoritate sedis apostolice inter nobilem virum Edmundum comitem Cornubie partem ut dicitur appellantem ex parte una, ac nobilem mulierem Margeriam² natam quondam Ricardi comitis Glovernie partem ut pretenditur appellatam ex altera, et dominis¹ Wynton' et¹ Sar' episcopis memoratis ac nobis a predicta sede commissis vobis vices nostras committimus cum coercicionis canonice potestate donec commissionem hujusmodi duxerimus revocandam. Datum apud Rameseye, nono kalendas Novembris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo et pontificatus nostri XI.

COMMISSIO. Commission to Master Walter of Wootton (Wutton'), canon of Lincoln, to collect all the money owing to the archdeaconry of Buckingham during the vacancy of the said archdeaconry. Ramsey, October 24, 1290.

¹ Blank in MS.

² *Sic, recte* 'Margaretam'.

RELAXATIO SEQUESTRI. Note of a letter to the Dean of Grantham telling him to relax the sequestration imposed, at the request of Robert the sequestrator, upon the revenues of the church of Harlaxton (Herlauston') on account of the non-residence of the rector. Buckden, October 26, 1290.

DISPENSATIO. To William of Langton (Langeton') priest, extending indefinitely the dispensation already granted to him to minister in his orders without cure of souls, although he had been ordained in Italy contrary to papal decree and without letters dimissory. Buckden, October 26, 1290.

[*folio 12*]

LITTERA QUESTUARIA. To the dean and chapter and to all the archdeacons of the diocese and their officials, telling them to put no obstacle in the way of the annual collection of alms for the Bethlehem hospitals, which had been expressly exempted from the effects of a bull of Nicholas IV forbidding the seeking of alms by religious orders and hospitals. Buckden, October 27, 1290.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilectis in Christo filiis¹ decano et capitulo ecclesie nostre Lincoln' necnon universis archidiaconis per Lincoln' diocesem constitutis et eorum officialibus salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Licet sanctissimus pater dominus Nicholaus papa quartus universis et singulis religiosis ordinibus hospitalibus et domorum dei magistris et fratribus cujuscumque forent conditionis vel ordinis questus omnis exercicium nuper interdixerit , omnino quelibet privilegia , indulgencias et litteras cujuscumque tenoris existerent eis ab apostolica sede vel ejus legatis aut aliis quibuscumque concessa quod ad questum hujusmodi faciendum per suas litteras revocando , et nullius esse firmitatis similiter decernendo , capitulo tamen Bethleemit' ecclesie volens gratiam facere specialem , decrevit quod per interdictum et revocationem hujusmodi vel earum occasione sibi aut hospitalibus seu domibus suis in quibus sustentantur pauperes et infirmi nullum prejudicium afferetur quin libere et sine cujusquam contrarietatis objectu possent petere ac recipere ad opus infirmorum et pauperum predictorum elemosinas et alia quelibet caritatis subsidia que eis pia fidelium devotio exhiberet prout in ipsius domini pape litteris nobis ostensis vidimus plenius contineri , nos igitur desolationi dicte ecclesie pio compatiētes affectu , vobis firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus cum fratres seu nuncii ecclesie memorate ad vos venerint pro fidelium elemosinis colligendis ad opus infirmorum et pauperum predictorum , ipsorum negotium per locorum presbiteros absque convocatione seu predicatione aliqua diebus dominicis seu festivis intra missarum solempnia dummodo veri fuerint fratres

¹ Blank in MS.

seu nuncii eorundem semel in anno faciatis patenter exponi , et quod collatum fuerit eisdem integraliter liberari , proviso quod negotium fabrice ecclesie nostre Lincoln' per hoc minime perturbatur , presentibus post triennium nullatenus valituris . Datum apud Bukkeden' VI kalendas Novembris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo et pontificatus nostri undecimo.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation to Richard of Braunston(e) (Braunceston'), chaplain, for having been ordained by the Bishops of Ardagh and Kildare without letters dimissory and for having ministered in orders thus received. Richard was given licence to minister in his orders, without cure of souls, as long as he behaved himself. Buckden, October 28, 1290.

INDULGENCIA. Grant of twenty days' indulgence to all who should say a Pater and an Ave for the soul of Sir John Russel, knight, whose body is buried in Grafham churchyard. Buckden, October 28, 1290.

COMMISSIO. Commission to Master William of Thornton, Master William of Langworth (Langewath'), and Simon of Worth (Wrth'), canons of Lincoln, to discharge Ralph vicar of Edlington (Edelington') and his fellow-executors of the will of John Le Kirkeman of Edlington. Buckden, October 29, 1290.

INDULGENCIA. Grant of twenty days' indulgence to all confessed and contrite persons who should pray for the souls of Sir John Coleman and Julian his wife, whose bodies are buried in the churchyard of S. Martin at Ancaster (Anacastr'). Sleaford, November 1, 1290.

PRO REMISSIONE PENSIONIS ECCLESIE DE FARDINGESTON'. Note of an agreement made between the Abbot and convent of S. James outside Northampton on the one part and Master John rector of Farthingstone on the other about an annual pension of half a mark claimed by the abbey from the church of Farthingstone. The abbot and convent promised to remit the pension, and to return all documents relating to the claim, for a payment of six marks sterling to be made by the rector in the quindene of Easter 1291. Buckden, October 28, 1291.

Memorandum quod inter religiosos viros¹ abbatem et conventum Sancti Jacobi extra Norhamt' ex parte una et magistrum Johannem rectorem ecclesie de Fardingeston' ex altera super quadam pensione annua dimidie marce quam dicti religiosi ab ecclesia predicta et ipsius rectoribus sibi debitam asserebant orta

¹ Elank in MS.

fuisse materia questionis , demum V kalendas Novembris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo apud Bukkeden predictus abbas pro se et conventu suo , dictusque magister Johannes pro se coram episcopo personaliter constituti pro bono pacis et litium dispendiis evitandis amicaliter consenserunt quod dictus magister Johannes [*folio 12^v*] solveret dicto abbati sex marcas sterlingorum in quindena Pasche anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo et iidem abbas et conventus remitterent in perpetuum pensionem predictam , et super remissione hujusmodi traderent dicto magistro Johanni in solutione hujusmodi pecunie scriptum suum et omnia instrumenta contingencia istud factum.

APPROPRIATIO CAPELLE DE KNYVETON' AB ECCLESIA DE ESSEBURN' DEPENDENTIS. Letters patent of the bishop, together with the dean and chapter of Lincoln, quoting in full and accepting under their seals a letter from the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield (dated at Tattenhall, October 16, 1290) in which the said bishop announced that he had given to the said dean and chapter licence to appropriate the chapel of Kniveton near Ashbourne in Derbyshire on the death or resignation of the rector, Master Peter of Winton. Bishop Sutton's seal was affixed at Buckden, November 8, 1290. The date of the affixing of the chapter seal is not given.

Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis presentes littere inspecturis vel audituris Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus , Philippus decanus et capitulum ejusdem loci salutem in domino sempiternam . Litteras venerabilis patris domini R. dei gracia Coventren' et Lich' episcopi inspeximus in hec verba :—Rogerus permissione divina Coventren' et Lich' episcopus dilectis in Christo filiis¹ decano et capitulo ecclesie nostre Lich' predicte salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Cum reverendus in Christo pater dominus Oliverus dei gracia Lincoln' ecclesie episcopus et venerabiles viri Philippus decanus et capitulum ejusdem se et capellam de Knyveton' nostre diocesis que ad ecclesiam de Esseburn' quam idem decanus ratione sui decanatus in usus proprios optinet , spectare consueverat , ac etiam totum jus quod ipsis in eadem quoquomodo competere potuit ordinationi et dispositioni nostre sponte pure et absolute totaliter submiserunt , promittentes firmiter per suas litteras patentes in verbo veritatis et sacerdotii se gratum et acceptum in perpetuum habituros quicquid de eadem ordinandum duxerimus prout in litteris submissionis hujusmodi sigillis suis signatis plenius et expressius continetur , nos prefate ecclesie Lich' sponse nostre in Christo carissime sicut tenemur incrementa prospera affectantes , attendentes etiam onera gravia que vobis in eadem residentibus imminent qui diei et estus pondera sustinetis et in eadem tanquam cultores agri dominici dei jugiter deservitis , ut

¹ Blank in MS.

onera ipsa supportare facilius valeatis ac divine laudis organa nostris temporibus in ecclesia eadem quod intimis visceribus cupimus augeantur , capellam de Knyvinton' predictam cum omnibus juribus et pertinenciis ad eandem in augmentum commune vestre vobis concedimus , magistro Petro de Wynton' nunc rectore cedente vel etiam decedente perpetuis temporibus possidendam . Et quod usibus vestris futuris temporibus taliter applicetur virtute submissionis predictae disponimus ac etiam tenore presencium ordinamus ita quod post decessum vel cessionem Petri nunc rectoris predicti liceat vobis possessionem ingredi capelle ejusdem consensu nostro vel successoris nostri cujuscumque super hoc minime requisito , salva tamen vicaria in capella eadem per nos aut successores nostros juxta vires et facultates ipsius in certis portionibus ordinanda . In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum . Datum apud Tattenhull' XVII kalendas Novembris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo et consecrationis nostre XXXIII.—Nos igitur hujusmodi concessionem , applicationem et ordinationem ratas habentes pariter et acceptas , eas unanimi consensu sigillorum nostrorum munimine roboramus . Datum quoad nos episcopum Lincoln' predictum apud Buckeden' VI idus Novembris anno domini supradicto . Et quoad nos decanum et capitulum Lincoln'¹

CONTRA CONSERVATORES. To the vicar of Riseley, forbidding him to obey a citation to order Florus rector of Bletsoe to appear before the conservator of the privileges of the Hospitallers in England until further instructions arrived from the bishop, because this citation appeared to be contra to a statute of Archbishop Pecham which applied to the whole province of Canterbury. Buckden, November 11, 1290.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilecto in Christo filio² vicario de Risle salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Cum ad presumptionem quorundam conservatorum finibus sibi concessis nullatenus contentorum reprimendam a venerabile patre domino J. dei gracia Cantuar' Archiepiscopo totius Anglie primate suisque suffraganeis jam pridem statutum fuerit conductum seu concorditer ordinatum quod in provincia Cantuar' nullus alius quam episcopi vel officiales eorundem citationes conservatorum exequeretur , tuque qui nullimodo officio puplico seu jurisdictioni prees quoddam mandatum citatorium gerentis se pro conservatore privilegiorum fratrum hospitalis Sancti Johannis Jerusalem' in Anglia de Floro rectore ecclesie de Blettesho coram ipso citando nuper receperis ut audivimus , tibi in virtute obediencie firmiter inhibemus , ne hujusmodi mandatum citando vel de citatione facta certificando exequaris ad presens quousque hujusmodi mandatum tibi directum nobis ostenderis et aliud subsequenter a nobis receperis

¹ Unfinished.

² Blank in MS.

in mandatis . Nos vero executionem hujusmodi mandati si legitimum fuerit et ei de jure parendum non intendimus aliquammodo impedire , sed potius juvare et promovere sicut decet . Datum apud Buckeden' III idus Novembris pontificatus nostri anno XI.

INTERPRETATIO COMMISSIONIS PRECEDENTIS. To the precentor (Adam of Brampton), the Archdeacon of Huntingdon and the Archdeacon of Stow, explaining that Eve of Beverley, against whom they had been instructed to proceed in a previous letter,¹ passed also under the names of Alice of Beverley and Alice Long of Gringley. Buckden, November 12, 1290.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilectis in Christo filiis² precentori² archidiacono Hunt' et² archidiacono Stowe in ecclesia Lincoln' salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Cum in negotio super correctionibus et aliis contra personas diversas per nos vobis prius commisso , mulierem cum Ricardo de Beauso super incontinentiam diffamatam Evam de Beverlaco nominaverimus , que secundum quosdam Aliciam de Beverlaco et secundum alios Aliciam Longa³ de Grengelye communiter ut intelleximus nuncupatur , nolentes hujusmodi erroris pretextu ipsam incorrectam dimitti , vobis mandamus quatinus contra mulierem prefatam quocumque nomine censeatur sine more dispendio procedatis juxta directarum vobis prius per nos continenciam litterarum . Valete . Datum apud Buckeden' II idus Novembris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo.

DATIO CURATORIS. To Nicholas de Lusceles, rector of the mediety of Stoke, appointing him coadjutor to his uncle Master Nicholas of Marnham, rector of Deddington, who was suffering from an incurable illness. The former coadjutor, Alan rector of Burford, had been removed by the bishop. Buckden, November 14, 1290.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilecto in Christo filio Nicholao de Lusceles rectori medietatis ecclesie de Stok' salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Cum magistro Nicholao de Marnham rectori ecclesia de Dadington' avunculo tuo incurabili infirmitate laboranti in tantum quod ad curam ecclesie sue suique regimen non sufficit nec suorum , ex officii nostri debito justa consideratione moti Alanum rectorem ecclesie de Berford' coadjutorem nuper duxerimus assignandum , cumque eodem Alano postmodum [*folio 13*] ab administratione sua certis de causis amoto , idem magister Nicholaus suique amici sibi assistentes de tua fide et industria plenius confidentes te eidem Nicholao coadjutorem per nos petierunt assignari , nos indemnitati sue pacique et tranquillitati ejusdem quantum secundum deum possumus necnon et cure ecclesie sue

¹ See above, p. 51.

² Blank in MS.

³ *Sic.*

de Dadington' prediſcte proſpicere cupientes , volentesque de moribus tuis pariter et industria per aliqualem experienciam effici certiores , te prefato rectori ad ſuorum et ejusdem regimen et ad curam eccleſie ſue tam in ſpiritualibus quam in temporalibus fideliter peragendam ſub debito juramenti ad ſancta dei evangelia per te coram nobis preſtiti , tanquam miniſtrum noſtrum duximus adjungendum , quouſque fuerit proviſum , mandantes ut in initio adminiſtrationis tue inventario de omnibus bonis dicti rectoris inventis ſub archidiaconi Oxon' vel alicujus per ipſum ad hoc deputandi aliorumque fidedignorum teſtimonio plene facto , in hujusmodi adminiſtratione ſic te habeas , quod de ea cum fueris requiſitus congrue valeas reſpondere , et de ſollicitudine tua grates et meritum debeas reportare . Datum apud Buckeden' XVIII kalendas Decembris anno domini M. CCXC et pontificatus noſtri XI . Et habuit aliam litteram clauſam¹ archidiacono Oxon' pro eo directam que ſtatim ſequitur.

[NO HEADING.] To the Archdeacon of Oxford, telling him to give effect to the appointment of Nicholas de Luſceles as coadjutor to Maſter Nicholas of Marnham , as deſcribed in the preceding letter. Buckden, November 14, 1290.

O. permiſſione divina Lincoln' epiſcopus dilecto in Chriſto filio¹ archidiacono Oxon' ſalutem , graciam et benedictionem . Cum Nicholaum de Luſceles rectorem medietatis eccleſie de Stok' magiſtro Nicholao de Marnham rectori eccleſie de Dadington' avunculo ſuo impotenti tanquam noſtrum miniſtrum uſque ad tempus ad curam ipſius et ſuorum peragendam duxerimus adjungendum prout in littera patenti quam eidem Nicholao de Luſceles ſuper hoc fieri fecimus et quam vobis exhiberi volumus plenius continetur , vobis mandamus quatinus in preſencia veſtra ſi ad hoc commode vacare poteritis , vel in preſencia alicujus per vos ad hoc deputandi inventarium de bonis dicti magiſtri Nicholai fieri faciatis , ipſumque Nicholaum de Luſceles dictam adminiſtrationem habere permittatis in forma in prefatis litteris plenius comprehenſa . Valet . Datum apud Buckeden' XVIII kalendas Decembris pontificatus noſtri anno XI.

DISPENSATIO. Diſpenſation to Thomas of Evington, ſubdeacon, for having received the ſubdiaconate from the Archbiſhop of York without letters diſmiſſory. A penance was impoſed upon him. Biggleswade, November 23, 1290.

INDULGENCIA. Grant of ten days' indulgence to all confeſſed and contrite perſons who ſhould ſay a Pater and an Ave for the ſouls of William Everard and Maud his wife, whoſe bodies are

¹ Blank in MS.

buried in the churchyard of S. Mary at Baldock, together with a ratification of all indulgences granted or to be granted in future by other bishops for the same cause. Baldock, November 25, 1290.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to the Abbot and convent of Thornton, enabling them to have some members of their community (who are not named) ordained to appropriate orders by the Archbishop of York upon S. Lucy's day (December 13) next ensuing. "Hithe", November 26, 1290.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation to Stephen of Shillington (Schute-lingdon'), chaplain, for being ordained by Irish bishops without letters dimissory and for ministering in orders thus obtained without a dispensation. Stephen was given a penance and suspended until the following Christmas, but was thereafter to be allowed to minister in priest's orders without cure of souls so long as he behaved himself. "Hithe", November 27, 1290.

COMMISSIO. Commission to Henry vicar of Hawridge (Hawereg') and Roger vicar of Hemel Hempstead (Hemelhamsted') to discharge Denise widow of William of Grange (Grangia) and her fellow-executors of the will of the said William. Berkhamstead, December 2, 1290.

SENTENCIA EXCOMMUNICATIONIS. Note that on December 3, 1290, the bishop preached in the church of S. Peter at Berkhamstead, and ordered John de Scalleby to pronounce sentence of excommunication upon all those who prevented the rector of the said church from collecting his tithes. These malefactors had received three warnings from the Dean of Berkhamstead in the neighbouring churches, but they had forcibly prevented the said dean from publishing the warnings in S. Peter's.

Memorandum quod dominus O. dei gracia Lincoln' episcopus III nonas Decembris videlicet die dominica proxime post festum Sancti Andree apostoli anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo in ecclesia beati Petri de Berchamstede post sermonem suum populo factum quamdam sentenciam generalem per os domini Johannis de Scalleby quem statuit organum sue vocis protulit sub hac forma :—In dei nomine amen. Fama vehemens et clamosa insinuatio nobis O. permissione divina Lincoln' episcopo detulerunt quod nonnulli iniquitatis filii quorum nomina ignorantur rectorem ecclesie Sancti Petri de Berchamsted' nostre diocesis ne decimas ad eandem ecclesiam de Berchamsted' mero jure spectantes percipere et libere cariare seu abducere per suos valeret sicut predecessores sui consueverant per maliciam impediverunt et etiam molestarunt eandem

ecclesiam suo jure privare intentes , in ecclesiastice libertatis prejudicium manifestum , dicti rectoris et ecclesie sue prefate lesionem enormem , animarum suarum periculum et scandalum plurimorum . Et licet¹ decanus de [*folio 13^v*] Berchamstede in suis capitulis et vicinis ecclesiis ecclesie Sancti Petri prescripte , ad eandem ecclesiam non ausus accedere terrore armatorum quorundam ad mandatum nostrum denunciaverit tribus dominicis diebus solempniter ut malefactores predicti ab impedimento et molestatione pretactis infra triduum a suarum denunciationum immostrarum potius tempore numerandum desisterent et de premissa injuria deo et ecclesie ac prefato rectore satisfacerent competenter , nullatenus adhuc de impedimento et molestatione ac injuria memoratis satisfactio est impensa . Nos igitur qui jura ecclesiarum nostre diocesis tenemur ex officii debito protegere et tueri , nolentes tante temeritatis excessum transire conniventibus oculis impunitum , in omnes malefactores predictos majoris excommunicationis sententiam in genere promulgamus et ipsos excommunicatos denunciemus solempniter per presentes.

INDULGENCIA. Letters patent granting twenty days' indulgence to all confessed and contrite persons of the diocese of Lincoln, and others whose diocesan bishops should approve, who should contribute to the upkeep or repair of the causeway at Ramsey. The indulgence was to be valid for five years, with ratification of all other indulgences granted or to be granted hereafter for the same cause. London, Old Temple, December 16, 1290.

Universis ad quos presentes littere pervenerint , Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus salutem in auctore salutis . Inter cetera caritatis opera constructionem , sustentationem et reparationem pontium , calcetarum et viarum ex quibus solutis , disruptis seu fractis creberrime pericula corporum et animarum quandoque notorium est provenire , pietatis officium non modicum reputantes , ac de omnipotentis dei misericordia , beatissime virginis Marie , gloriosi confessoris Sancti Hugonis et omnium sanctorum meritis confidentes , omnibus parochianis nostris et aliis quorum diocesani indulerint ut hoc nostra beneficia sibi prosint , de peccatorum suorum maculis vere penitentibus et confessis , qui ad sustentationem seu reparationem calcete de Rameseya de bonis sibi a deo collatis animo devoto grata contulerint subsidia caritatis , viginti dies de injuncta sibi penitencia misericorditer relaxamus , ratificantes omnes indulgencias in hac parte concessas et in posterum concedendas . In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum appensum est presenibus post quinquennium minime valiturus.² Datum apud Vetus Templum London' septimodecimo kalendas Januarii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo.

¹ Blank in MS.

² *Sic, recte* 'valiturus'.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Henry son of Ralph of Olney (Olneya) to receive all holy orders. London, Old Temple, December 15, 1290.

PRO FRATERIIS HOSPITALIS. To all the archdeacons' officials or their vicegerents, rural deans, rectors and vicars of the diocese of Lincoln, telling them to put no obstacle in the way of accredited collectors of alms for the Hospitallers, since there had been expressly exempted from the papal mandate forbidding the collection of alms for religious orders. London, Old Temple, December 20, 1290.

O. permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilectis in Christo filiis archidiaconorum officialibus seu eorum vices gerentibus decanis, rectoribus et vicariis per eandem diocesem constitutis, tam locis exemptis quam non exemptis, salutem, gratiam et benedictionem. Quia mandatum apostolicum per quod prima facie omnibus questoribus petendi, colligendi et exigendi in ecclesiis vestris oblationes sive elemosynas videbatur interdicta potestas, ad fraterias hospitalis Sancti Johannis Jerusalem' nullatenus se extendit prout ex ipsius mandati serie potest liquido apparere, nolumus quod nuncii predicti hospitalis cum ad loca vestra et ecclesias vestras declinaverint, pro frateriis hujusmodi colligendis, per vos aliquantulum impediatur, sed more solito ipsos benigne et curialiter recipiatis et quod taliter per eos collectum fuerit sine aliqua vestra contradictione ipsos habere libere permittatis, ac de collectis hujusmodi disponere et ordinare pro sue libito voluntatis, proviso quod ad nulla alia preterquam ad ea sola que ad fraterias suas pertinent manus extendant, quousque a sede apostolica super hoc aliud receperitis in mandatis. Datum in domo nostra apud Vetus Templum London' XIII kalendas Januarii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo et pontificatus nostri anno undecimo.

COMMISSIO OFFICII ARCHIDIACONATUS LINCOLN' IPSO VACANTE. Commission to Master Clement of Leake to take charge of the Archdeacons' office of Lincoln during the vacancy caused by the death of Master William de la Gare. The same formula was used as that employed in committing the Archdeacons' office of Buckingham to Master Nicholas of Oving (Ovinge).¹ Fingest, December 23, 1290.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Hugh son of William son of Abraham of South Elkington (Suth Elkington'), deacon, to receive the priesthood. Fingest, December 24, 1290.

LITTERA QUESTUARIA. To all archdeacons or their officials in the diocese of Lincoln, telling them to allow the brethren of the

¹ See above, p. 1, but the formula is not given in full in either case.

Order of Holy Trinity to collect alms once a year in their districts, without any special summons or sermon to the people, and with the provision that the cathedral building-fund was not to be prejudiced. This permission was to be valid for five years. Fingest, December 27, 1290.

O. etc., universis archidiaconis per Lincoln' diocesem constitutis vel eorum officialibus salutem, etc. Cum fratrum ordinis Sancte Trinitatis bona ad elemosinas quas faciunt non sufficiant ut intelleximus supportandas, eisdem viris quibus possumus dignum duximus subvenire. Hinc est quod vobis firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus cum fratres seu nuncii ordinis memorati ad vos venerint pro fidelium elemosinas colligendis ipsorum negotium per locorum presbiteros absque convocatione seu predicatione aliqua diebus dominicis seu festivis intra missarum solempnia, dummodo veri fuerint fratres seu nuncii eorundem semel in anno faciatis patenter exponi, et quod collectum fuerit eisdem integraliter liberari, proviso quod negotium fabrice ecclesie nostre Lincoln' per hoc minime differatur, [*folio 14*] presentibus post quinquennium minime valituris. Datum apud Tyngehurst VI kalendas Januarii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo et pontificatus nostri XI.

PRO NICHOLAO DE LUTTERWRTH'. To the archdeacon of Buckingham, asking him to investigate the case of Nicholas of Lutterworth and, if he found that the conduct of Nicholas had been satisfactory, to allow him to minister in his orders after penance and a period of suspension; if not, to report to the bishop. Nicholas, now an old man, had confessed to the bishop that he had been ordained in Ireland about forty-five years previously without letters dimissory, and had ministered in his orders without a dispensation, not realising that he was doing wrong. The bishop had granted him a provisional dispensation. Fingest, December 28, 1290.

O. etc., archidiacono Buck', etc. Nicholaum de Lutterwrth' nostre diocesis pro eo quod ad omnes sacros ordines in Hibernia, diocesani sui licencia non optenta, diu ut puta XLV annis elapsis, alias tamen rite ut proponit promoveri se fecit, et in sic susceptis ordinibus secum nullatenus dispensato ex quadam simplicitate et ignorancia juris quandoque cum cura animarum et sine cura interdum, usque ad circiter festum Omnium Sanctorum proxime preteritum ministravit, incaute ab executione ordinum suorum per vos suspensum ut dicit, ad vos duximus remittendum, mandantes quatinus si dictus Nicholaus cui pre¹ ipsius debilitate compatimur pariter et senecta, in archidiaconatu vestro in quo per decennium precendens moram traxit sicut affirmat laudabiliter seu tolerabiliter fuerit conversatus, imposita sibi pro modo culpe quam in dictos ordines recipiendo et in eisdem ministrando,

¹ Sic, recte 'pro'?

dispensatione non premissa , commisit , penitencia salutari , eoque a dictorum ordinum executione prout anime sue saluti videritis expedire ad tempus suspenso , cum eodem ut hujusmodi irregularitate non obstante dum tamen aliud canonicum minime refragetur , recepta probatione ordinum suorum ab ipsomet saltem juratoria si aliam pro lapsu tanti temporis supratacti legitimam prestare nequeat ad presens , divina sicut melius decreveritis valeat celebrare , vice et auctoritate nostra misericorditer dispensans . Alioquin si eundem Nicholaum male se gessisse compareritis pro tempore retroacto , hoc nobis litteris vestris sine more dispendio fideliter rescribatis . Valete . Datum apud Tyngehist' V kalendas Januarii , pontificatus nostri anno XI.

DISSISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Hugh son of Cecily of Edenham, acolyte, to receive all holy orders. Fingest, December 26, 1290.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensations for bastardy to Geoffrey of Haddenham (Hedenham) and John his brother, clerks. Fingest, December 30, 1290.

CAPTIO. Note of a letter to the King asking for the arrest of Nicholas le Archer of Sibbertoft (Sibertoft), who had remained obdurate for more than forty days after being excommunicated by the bishop's official at the request of William and Luke, clergy¹ of Sibbertoft and Swineshead respectively. Fingest, January 2, 1291.

CONTRA MAGISTRUM STEPHANUM DE TAWELL'. Note that Stephen the messenger came from Rome with various letters which he gave to Master Stephen of Tathwell, who handed them over to John de Scalleby for safe keeping. Fingest, January 3, 1291.

III nonas Januarii anno XI apud Tyngehist' veniens de curia Romana Stephanus nuncius detulit unam litteram cautionalem contra Jacobum de Buccamentiis prebendarium de Stokes , aliam contra magistrum Philippum de Barton' et transcriptum ejusdem littere apostolice per abbatem majoris monasterii Tur' contra priorem de Neuport Paynel impetrante sub sigillo auditorum contradictorum , et transcriptum ejusdam instrumenti publici super presentatione certificatorium episcopi destinatum ad curiam Romanam confecti , que omnia magister Stephanus de Tawell' recepit de Stephano nuncio predicto et ea tradidit J. de Scalleby custodienda.

PRO DEFECTIBUS ECCLESIE DE WALTON' EMENDANDIS. To the official of the archdeacon of Huntingdon, telling him to go to the church of Wood Walton and inspect the dilapidations said to have been left by the late rector Richard of Stamford. He was also

¹ ' ad instanciam Willelmi et Luce ecclesiarum de Sibertoft et Swynesheved '.

to sequestrate the goods of the said Richard and, if these did not suffice for the repairs, to sequestrate also twenty pounds owed to the said Richard by the Abbot of Ramsey, and to report to the bishop. Fingest, January 11, 1291.

O. etc , officiali archidiaconi Huntingd' salutem , etc . Quoniam in ecclesia de Walton' et ipsius manso notabiles ut intelleximus sunt defectus qui domini Ricardi de Staumford' ultimi rectoris ejusdem nunc defuncti tempore contingerunt , nos indemnitati dicte ecclesie in hiis prout possumus prospicere cupientes , vobis mandamus quatinus ad dictam ecclesiam personaliter accedentes et defectus predictos visui supponentes , omnia bona ad dictum defunctum spectantia ibidemque recepta saltem usque ad estimationem defectuum quos reperitis sequestretis et sub arto custodiatis sequestro donec defectus hujusmodi corrigantur ut decet , vel per executores defuncti predicti de eis cautum fuerit emandandis . Quod si bona ibi reperta ad emendationem defectuum non sufficiant predictorum , viginti libras per abbatem et conventum de Rameseye dicto defuncto debitas et adhuc in ipsius abbatis manibus existentes , seu quantum ad dictorum refectionem defectuum sufficerit de eisdem usque in eventum emendationis vel cautionis predictarum consimiliter sequestretis , certificantes nos de facto vestro per vestras patentes litteras harum seriem continentes tempore oportuno. Valete . Datum apud Tyngehurst' III idus Januarii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo et pontificatus nostri undecimo.

[*folio 14^v*]

CONCESSIO CANTARIE. To Ralph Moryn of Harrold , giving him licence to re-open the private chapel granted by Bishop Gravesend to his mother, Maud Moryn, on account of the distance of his manor from the parish church, the fact that the intervening road was often flooded in winter, and the poor health and devout temperament of the said Ralph. Fingest, January 11, 1291.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilecto in Christo filio Radulpho Moryn de Harewold' nostre diocesis salutem , etc . Attendentes quod manerium tuum de Cakebrok' a matrice ecclesia de Harewold' distat in tantum quod ipsam absque difficultate saltem in tempore yemali cum aque inundant ne quis adire et divinis officiis congruis temporibus interesse , quodque bone memorie dominus Ricardus noster proximus predecessor domine Matildi Moryn matri tue ut in oratorio infra manerium predictum constructo divina sibi et libere familie sue per sacerdotes proprios faceret dum vixit officia celebrari licenciam specialem occasione premissa gracie concessit , considerantes etiam corporis tui imbecillitatem et devotionem tuam quam ad divina geris officia audienda , ut in oratorio predicto dum tamen decens fuerit et honestum divina tibi et libere familie tue per sacerdotem propriis sumptibus exhibenda

usque ad nostre voluntatis bene placitum facias celebrari , priorisse et conventus de Harewold' ecclesiam matricem predictam in usus proprios possidentium et ejusdem vicarii concurrente consensu liberam facultatem tibi concedimus per presentes , ita quod nullimodis sacramentis ecclesiasticis , etc. Datum apud Tyngehirst' tertio idus Januarii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo et pontificatus nostri undecimo.

PRO COLLECTIONE DECIME DOMINO REGI CONCESSE. To the Archdeacon of Northampton, telling him to collect in his archdeaconry one half of the tenth granted to the King by the clergy of the province of Canterbury and to have it ready to pay to the King by Easter. He was to report the amount collected and the amount of arrears to the bishop before the octave of Lady Day. Fingest, January 10, 1291. A note is added to the effect that the tenth, payable in two instalments, was granted at Ely on October 2, 1290, and that letters ordering the collection of one half of it were sent to all the archdeacons of the diocese except the Archdeacon of Lincoln, who was out of the country. Eventually on January 21, 1291, the responsibility of raising the tax in the archdeaconry of Lincoln was entrusted to Simon of Worth.

O. permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilecto in Christo filio¹ archidiacono Norhamt' salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Nuper apud Ely venerabilis pater J. dei gracia Cantuar' archiepiscopus totius Anglie primas suique suffraganei necnon et procuratores totius cleri Cantuar' provincie congregati domino regi Anglie dare decimam omnium beneficiorum ecclesiasticorum ejusdem provincie secundum taxationem Norwyce' per sollicitudinem episcoporum colligendam ac in proximis festis pasche et beati Michaelis pro equali portione solvendam sicut nostis unanimiter consenserunt , nos vero eo sollicitius de isto negotio cogitantes , quo periculosius et turpius foret si tanto principi non servaretur promissum , quodque melius per vestram diligenciam qui ad compescendum rebelles gladium semper habetis in manu et vestrorum cognoscitis subditorum personas , qui videlicet citius de bona sua de facili consumentes et qui tardius ad solutionem sunt artandi decima archidiaconatus vestri colligi poterit antedicta , vobis firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus ab omnibus et singulis personis beneficium ecclesiasticum in archidiaconatu vestro optinentibus seu etiam possidentibus per vos vel vestros seu quoscumque alios per quibus volueritis respondere medietatem prefate decime exigi et recipi faciatis citra proximum festum Annunciationis virginis gloriose , contra rebelles omnimoda severitate utendo , ita quod in subsequenti pascha dicta medietas predicto domino regi plenarie valeat numerari . Et quid inde feceritis , et de summa

¹ Blank in MS.

recepta citra festum Annunciationis predictum et de summa arreragiorum si que fuerint nos infra octo dies post idem festum reddatis certiores per litteras vestras patentes harum seriem continentes . Valet . Datum apud Tyngehist' IIII idus Januarii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo . Concessio vero de qua proximo fit mentio facta fuit ut premititur apud Ely in crastino consecrationis domini Willelmi episcopi Elien' , scilicet VI nonas Octobris anno supradicto . Et scriptum fuit pro levatione dicte decime pro prima medietate sub forma et data precedentibus singulis archidiaconi preterquam archidiacono Lincoln' , quod non fuit in terra , sed postmodum XII kalendas Februarii anno domini supradicto apud Wuburn' exivit quedam commissio domino Simone de Wrth' canonico Lincoln' sub forma in proximo rotulo¹ contenta ad hoc signum.²

RELAXATIO SEQUESTRI. To Master Richard of Purton, sequestrator of the bishop, telling him to relax the sequestration imposed on the various tithes which the prior of Ogbourne had in the archdeaconry of Oxford, some of which tithes the prior had sold to laymen or farmed out. Fingest, January 11, 1291.

III idus Januarii apud Tyngehist' scriptum fuit magistro Ricardo Piriton' sequestratori episcopi quod relaxaret sequestrum ideo interpositum in decimis separatim quas habet prior de Okeburn' in archidiaconatu Oxon' , quod dictus prior easdem decimas aliquando ante collectionem ipsarum vendit laicos et dimittit ad firmam , et de eisdem decimis causa predicta non obstante prefatum priorem libere permetteret ordinare.

APPROBATIO ORDINUM. To the dean of Holland, telling him to allow Richard de Aylwaston', priest, to minister in the deanery of Holland, since the said Richard had produced proof of his ordination in the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield. Richard was to have no cure of souls and to work hard at his grammar. Fingest, January 16, 1291.

O. etc , decano Hoyland' etc. Exposuit nobis Ricardus de Aylwaston' presbiter lator presentium quod officium sacerdotale in decanatu Hoyland' exequi nullatenus est permissus , eo quod idem Ricardus de ordinibus in partibus Coventr' ubi traxit originem susceptis tempore sibi ad hoc per vos seu³ officialem archidiaconi Lincoln' statuto fidem non fecit . Cum igitur dictus presbiter de ordinibus suis per litteram diocesani sui clericis nostris ostensam docuerit ad plenum , eundem divina celebrare sine qualibet cura parochiale quamdiu se bene et honeste se habuerit si aliud canonicum

¹ *Sic, recte* 'folio'.

² A small drawing of a hand appears after this word.

³ Blank in MS.

non obsistat ex nunc licite permittatis , injuncto sibi quam repetitioni servicii sui et eorum que pertinent ad officium suum diligenter intenderet , seque in grammaticalibus in quibus defectum patitur pro viribus exercent in futurum . Datum apud Tyngehurst' XVII kalendas Februarii pontificatus nostri anno XI.

PRO DEFECTIBUS ECCLESIE DE BROGTON' REPARANDIS. To the Archdeacon of Huntingdon or his official, telling them to make provision for necessary repairs to the structure and ornaments of the church of Broughton from the goods of the late rector, provided that no unreasonable exaction were made and that the executors had not already provided for the repairs. Fingest, January 20, 1291.

O. etc. , archidiacono Hunt' vel ejus officiali , etc. Mandamus vobis quatinus si que defectus notabiles sint in edificiis et ornamentis ecclesie de Broghton' quorum emendatio ad rectorem ejusdem ecclesie nuper defunctum debeant¹ spectare de jure , hujusmodi defectus de bonis dicti defuncti si ipsius executores hoc facere non curaverint faciatis [*folio 15*] supleri² prout decet , proviso quod dictus defunctus in hac parte plus debito non gravetur . Valete . Datum apud Tyngehurst' XIII kalendas Februarii pontificatus nostri anno XI.

CASSATIO ELECTIONIS FACTE DE FRATRE NICHOLAO DE SWAREBY IN PRIOREM DE KYMA.³ Formal announcement of the quashing of the election of Nicholas of Swarby to the office of prior of Kyme. The bishop declared that the election had taken place in an irregular and conspiratorial manner, and reserved to himself the right of appointing a new prior. Fingest, January 20, 1291.

In dei nomine amen . Cum in negotio electionis presentate nobis Olivero permissione divina Lincoln' episcopo loci diocesano ex parte fratris Nicholai de Swarby canonici domus de Kyma nostre diocesis asserentis se per electionem canonicam communiter ab omnibus de conventu domus ipsius quasi per inspirationem spiritus sancti absque vicio celebratam electum in priorem domus ejusdem fuissent duo testes canonici domus ipsius ad probandum electionem hujusmodi ac processum ipsius coram nobis producti , jurati ac diligenter et fideliter requisiti , demum quia depositionibus testium hujusmodi postmodum publicatis et diligenter inspectis invenimus evidenter electionem hujusmodi de predicto fratre Nicholao factam ut probatur nec per inspirationem spiritus sancti ut per viam illam condecet celebratam , sed magis instigatione plurium de conventu fabricatam utpote qui extra capitulum in proximo ante electionem ipsius non absque vicio conspirationis expresse convenerant in

¹ Sic, recte 'debeat'.

³ See L.R.S. 39, pp. XXV and 151-152.

² Sic.

eundem in capitulo postmodum eligendum , electionem eandem , ad quam etiam non vocatis omnibus qui debuerant interesse processum , fuerat ut probatur tanquam minus canonice celebratam non vicio persone ipsius electi sed ob defectum eligentium et vicio processus electionis ipsius , auctoritate pontificali exigente iusticia duximus irritandam , eligentes propter manifestam culpam potestate itèrum eligendi hac vice privantes , et nobis facultatem ad presens providendi eidem domui de priore auctoritate ordinaria reservantes . Datum apud Tyngheirst' XIII kalendas Februarii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo.

COMMISSIO DOMINI SIMONI DE WRTH' PRO DECIMA.¹ To Simon of Worth, canon of Lincoln, telling him to collect one half of the tenth granted to the King by the clergy. His authority was to extend over the archdeaconry of Lincoln, and his instructions are similar to those issued to the Archdeacon of Northampton.² Fingest, January 21, 1290.

O. permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilecto in Christo filio domino Simoni de Wurth' canonico ecclesie nostre Lincoln' salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Nuper apud Ely venerabilis pater J. dei gracia Cantuar' archiepiscopus totius Anglie primas suique suffraganei necnon et procuratores totius cleri Cantuar' provincie congregati domino regi Anglie dare decimam omnium beneficiorum ecclesiasticorum ejusdem provincie secundum taxationem Norwyc' per sollicitudinem episcoporum colligendam , ac in proximis festis pasche et beati Michaelis pro equali portione solvendam unanimiter consenserunt , nos vero eo sollicitius de isto negotio cogitantes quo periculosius et turpius foret si tanto principi non servaretur promissum , ac de vestra fidelitate pariter et industria confidentes , ad exigendum et recipiendum ab omnibus et singulis personis beneficium ecclesiasticum in archidiaconatu Lincoln' optinentibus , citra festum Annunciationis virginis gloriose medietatem decime supradicte , ita quod in subsequenti pasche predicta medietas domino regi predicto plenarie valeat numerari , vobis vices nostras committimus cum omnimode coercicionis canonice potestate in contradictores vobis et rebelles prout justum fuerit exercende.³ Et quid inde feceritis et de summa recepta citra festum Annunciationis predictum et de summa arreragiorum si que fuerint nos infra octo dies post idem festum reddatis certiores per vestras patentes litteras harum seriem continentes . Valete . Datum apud Tyngheirst' XII kalendas Februarii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo et pontificatus nostri XI . Subsequenter vero eodem die apud Wouburn' scriptum fuit pro eodem negotio universis decanis archidiaconatus Lincoln sub hac forma.

¹ Drawing of a small hand in the margin. See above, p. 65.

² See above, p. 65.

³ *Sic, recte* 'exercenda'.

LITTERA MISSA DECANIS ARCHIDIACONATUS LINCOLN' PRO EODEM.
To all the rural deans of the archdeaconry of Lincoln, informing them of the appointment of Simon of Worth as collector of the tenth granted to the King, and telling them to instruct all the clergy to pay one half of it without delay. Wooburn, January 21, 1290.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilectis in Christo filiis universis decanis per archidiaconatum Lincoln' constitutis salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Cum ad colligendum decimam ecclesiarum archidiaconatus Lincoln' secundum taxationem Norwyc' nuper domino regi a clero concessam domino Simoni de Wrth' canonico ecclesie nostre Lincoln' cum coercionis canonice potestate commiserimus vices nostras , vobis in virtute obediencie firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus universos religiosos ecclesias in usus proprios possidentes exemptos et non exemptos et ceteros ecclesiarum rectores ac vicarios quorum beneficia secundum taxationem Norwyc' sunt estimata prout in vestris consistunt decanatibus moneatis et efficaciter inducatis quod de necessitate facientes virtutem dictam decimam pro medietate ipsos contingentem citra festum Annunciationis dominice proxime futurum dicto domino Simoni sine difficultate qualibet solvere non postponant , coerciones ecclesiasticas quas idem dominus Simon in non solventes rite duxerit exercendas ad mandatum ipsius executioni debite demandantes . Datum apud Wouburn' XII kalendas Februarii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo.

COMMISSIO. Commission to the precentor (Adam of Brampton), the Archdeacon of Stow and Master William of Langworth, canon of Lincoln, to hear the lawsuit which had arisen over the will of Adam of the Hospital, citizen of Lincoln, and to settle it before Easter if possible. If they could not do so they were to cite the parties concerned to appear before the bishop, and in any case they were to report by letters patent. Fingest, January 20, 1291.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilectis in Christo filiis¹ precentori,¹ Archidiacono Stowe , et magistro Willelmo de Langewath' canonico ecclesie nostre Lincoln' salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Quam sicut scriptum est veritas sepius exagitata magis splendescit in lucem et etiam rationes sepe computatas interdum ex causa retractari contingit , negotium testamentarium motum seu movendum super bonis et rebus ad testamentum quondam Ade dicti de Hospitali civis Lincoln' defuncti et ad executionem ipsius spectantibus quoquomodo sive ex officii nostri debito contra executores testamenti ejusdem vel alios quoscumque , sive per modum actionis inter executores testamenti

¹ Blank in MS.

ejusdem ex parte una , et alios quoscumque reos aut actores pro jure sua forsan instantes ex altera , vobis non obstante commissione nostra priori [*folio 15^v*] quacumque servatis cum processibus legitimis habitis coram nobis seu commissariis nostris hucusque tenore presentium una cum potestate coercicionis canonice duximus committendum , citra festum pasche proxime futurum si liqueat et fieri possit fine canonico terminandum . Alioquin negotium instructum vel non instructum ad nostrum remittatis examen , diem competentem pro vestro arbitrio moderandum partibus quibus expedire videritis per modum prefixionis seu citationis legitime pro termino peremptorie assignantes , quo ubicumque tunc fuerimus in diocese nostra per se vel per procuratores ydoneos et sufficienter instructos compareant coram nobis seu gerentibus vices nostras in predicto negotio testamentario uno modo vel alio sicut justum fuerit processure et facture et recepture quod ordo dictaverit rationis . Quod si non omnes hiis interfueritis exequendis , duo vestrum ea nichilominus exequentur . Et quid super hiis omnibus et singulis duxeritis faciendum , nobis per litteras vestras patentes harum seriem continentes una cum processu vestro toto fideliter sub sigillis vestris incluso pleniter intimetis pro tempore oportuno . Valete . Datum apud Tyngehirst' XIII kalendas Februarii pontificatus nostri anno XI.

SEQUESTRATIO. To the Archdeacon of Leicester or his official, ordering the sequestration of all the goods belonging to the late Philip of Coldwell (Colewell') rector of Saddington (Sadington') because he had left notable defects in the church and rectory of Saddington which ought to have been repaired. Fingest, January 26, 1291.

DENUNCIATIO VACATIONIS ECCLESIE SANCTI PETRI NORHAMT'. To the King, announcing that the church of S. Peter at Northampton was vacant by the deprivation of William of Windsor, and asking him to present a suitable candidate. Fingest, February 1, 1291.

Excellentissimo domino suo domino Edwardo dei gracia illustri Regi Anglie domino Hibernie et Duci Aquitanie , Oliverus ejusdem permissione humilis ecclesie Lincoln' minister salutem in eo per quem reges regnant , etc. Cum ecclesia Sancti Petri Norhamt' nostre diocesis quam dominus Willelmus de Windeshovers nuper tenuit per ipsius domini Willelmi privationem vacat ad presens , vacationem hujusmodi dominationi vestre tenore presentium intimamus , ut personam idoneam ad eandem ecclesiam presentietis cum vestre celsitudini placuerit reverende . Valeat regia excellencia vestra in Christo Jesu per tempora diuturna . Datum apud Tyngehirst' kalendis Februarii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo.

PRO THOMA DE VENELLA DE STAN' PRESBITERO. Note that Thomas Lane (de Venella) of Staines (Stan') in the diocese of London, chaplain, had made proof of his ordination by the Bishop of Winchester by letters dimissory. A letter was therefore sent to the archdeacons throughout the diocese of Lincoln telling them to allow the said Thomas to minister in his orders provided that he behaved himself. Fingest, February 3, 1291.

PREFECTIO FRATRIS ARNALDIS PRIORIS DE KYMA. Announcement of the appointment of Arnold, cellarer of Thornton, as Prior of Kyme in the place of Nicholas of Swarby, whose election had been quashed by the bishop. Stoke Albany, February 11, 1291.¹

In dei nomine amen . Cum nos Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus electionem de fratre Nicholao de Swarreby canonico domus de Kyma nostre diocesis factam ut proponebatur in priorem loci ejusdem propter vicium processus electionis ejusdem et non ob aliquem defectum persone electe nuper cassaverimus , sicut oportuit justitia exigente , eligentes ob culpam suam potestate iterum eligendi hac vice privantes , et nobis facultatem providendi eidem domui de priore auctoritate ordinaria reservantes specialiter per decretum , nos ad utilitatem dicte prioratus nostre intentionis actione convertentes principalius novit deus , post exquisitam deliberationem et sollicitam revolutionem mentalem de personarum meritis diversarum , in fratrem Arnaldum cellerarium domus de Thornton' quem virum morigeratum , religiosum et multis virtutibus pollentem , ac in spiritualibus et temporalibus expertum reputamus pariter et circumspectum , conquiescimus in presenti , ipsumque jure ad nos ut premittitur devoluto auctoritate pontificali dicte domus prefecimus in priorem , curam et administrationem ipsius loci plenius committentes eidem . Actum apud Stok' Albanis III idus Februarii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to the Abbot of Thornton, giving him licence to have certain canons (whose names are not given) raised to the appropriate orders by the Archbishop of York in his Lenten ordinations. Dorchester-on-Thames, February 14, 1291.

LICENCIA HABENDI ORATORIUM. Licence to Master Richard of S. Frideswide (de Sancta Fredeswyda), Archdeacon of Buckingham, to have a private chapel in his house at Sherington (Schirington'). Beckley, February 16, 1291.

[No HEADING.] To the dean of Horncastle and Hill, telling him to choose some discreet rector or vicar to join with him in the examination of the witnesses to the degree of consanguinity between

¹ See L.R.S. 39, pp. XXV and 151-152.

Philip son of Hugh of Hagworthingham and Mariot daughter of Richard of Halton, who claimed that they were lawfully married in spite of rumours to the effect that they were within the prohibited degrees of kinship. The dean was to report his findings to the bishop before Easter, and to cite the parties concerned to appear before the bishop on the first juridical day after the octaves of Easter. Beckley, February 16, 1291.

O. etc., decano de Horncast' et de Hill' salutem, gratiam et benedictionem. Cum Philippus filius Hugonis de Haggewrthingham et Mariota filia Ricardi de Halton' quam de facto tenet in uxorem super eo quod illicite sicut dicitur stant conjuncti utpote in quarto gradu consanguinitatis sibi mutuo attinentes coram certis commissariis nostris personaliter comparentes, objectam eis consanguinitatem negaverint antedictam [*folio 16*] asserentes constanter se in tali gradu esse si in aliquo se attingant quod simul legitime stare possunt matrimonialiter copulati et ad hoc probandum offerentes protinus se paratos, nos animarum suarum saluti viis quibus possumus prospicere cupientes, et cuique sua jura servare volentes, vobis firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus assumpto vobiscum aliquo rectore seu vicario de vicinis de cujus prudentia duxeritis confidendum, testes quos dicti Philippus et Mariota super assertione sua produxerint coram vobis in forma juris admittententes et diligentius examinantes, necnon per viros fidedignos et juratos eisdem Philippo et Mariota nullo modo suspectos qui veritatem premissorum melius scire creduntur, vocatis vocandis ex officio nichilominus inquirentes, in quibus omnibus et singulis expediendis vobis committimus vices nostras depositiones tam testium productorum quam aliorum per quos duxeritis inquirendum in scriptis redactis et sub sigillis vestris separatim inelusas, necnon litteras vestras patentes harum seriem et qualiter hoc mandatum nostrum executi fueritis continentes nobis citra festum pasche proxime futurum destinatis, proximum diem juridicum post octabas pasche coram nobis ubicumque in nostra diocese tunc fuerimus ad faciendum et recipiendum in premissis quod justum fuerit assignantes eisdem. Datum apud Beekele XIII kalendas Martii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo.

APPELLATIO CONTRA CURIAM CANT' PRO DATIONE YCONOMI.¹
Appeal to the pope against the action of the official of the see of Canterbury (whose letter is given in full) in sequestrating the revenues of the churches of Colsterworth and Quinton while a dispute about them was pending in the Court of the Arches, and ordering the Abbots of Bourne and Notley to take charge of them in spite of the bishop's appeal to the pope. This appeal was read,

¹ There is a drawing of a hand in the margin, and the words 'Nota pro vacationibus ecclesiarum' have been added in a fourteenth-century hand.

on the bishop's instructions, by Master Jocelyn of Kirmington in the presence of Master Henry of Nassington, Master John le Fleming, Master Walter of Wootton, Master Robert of Kilworth and William of Stockton, canons of Lincoln, John de Scalleby rector of Sutton-le-Marsh, Robert of Kibworth rector of Saddington, John of Ferriby, clerk, Sir John of Bayton, a literate knight,¹ and many others. Fingest, February 1, 1291.

In dei nomine amen . Cum ad nos Oliverum Lincoln' episcopum ratione ecclesie nostre Lincoln' sequestratio fructuum omnium et beneficiorum vacantium in nostra diocese quamdiu ipsa vacare contigerit et dispositio eorundem fructuum ad nos et locorum archidiaconos pro certa portione de consuetudine antiqua et approbata et hactenus pacifice observata a tempore cujus memoria non existit pertinere noscantur , ac nos et predecessores nostri ac predicta nostra Lincoln' ecclesia dictique archidiaconi nostri sinus et fuerimus in possessione juris vel quasi fructus hujusmodi beneficiorum sequestrandi , colligendi et conservandi ac disponendi de eisdem prout honori dei et utilitati nostre Lincoln' ecclesie nobis visu fuerit expedire , officialem tamen curie Cant' nitens falcem in messem mittere alienam fructus beneficiorum vacantium in nostra diocese super quibus inter quasvis partes in predicta curia Cant' controversia vertitur seu questio agitur , de facto cum de jure non possit , non sine nostri juris et possessionis nostre et Lincoln' ecclesie ac archidiaconorum nostrorum predictorum prejudicio attemptat sequestrare , et de novo yconomos constituere in hujusmodi beneficiis pendente lite inter partes hujusmodi in curia antedicta , propter quod pro parte nostra ad sedem apostolicam extitit provocatum . Qua quidem provocatione non obstante sed ipsa potius vilipensa non absque sedis apostolice contemptu nobis et juri nostro possessionique nostre et ecclesie nostre Lincoln' ac archidiaconorum predictorum inferens graviora , nostro officiali mandavit per litteras suas sub tenore infrascripto ut Abbates de Brunne et de Nuttele nostre diocesis et nobis immediate subjectis , quibus se asserit custodiam fructuum et proventuum ecclesiarum de Colstwrth' et de Quenton' nostre diocesis super quibus in dicta Cant' curia aliquamdiu questio mota fuit comisisse citaret , ut de hujusmodi fructibus et proventibus prout in mandato predicto expressius continetur responderent ac plenarie sibi satisfacerent de eisdem . Tenor quoque predicti mandati talis est : — Officialis curie Cant' discreto viro² officiali Lincoln' vel ejus commissario generali , salutem in vero salutari . Nuper pendente lite in curia Cantuar' super ecclesiis de Colstwrth' et de Quenhull' sive Quenton' Lincoln' diocesis inter presentatos ad easdem et

¹ He was the bishop's marshal, who later retired and became a clerk of the household.

² Blank in MS.

presentantes ex parte una et dominum O. dei gracia Lincoln' episcopum ex altera , fructus et obventiones eorundem medio tempore sequestravimus et custodiam sequestri hujusmodi¹ abbatibus de Brunne et de Nuttele pro fructibus et obventionibus dictarum ecclesiarum colligendis et salvo ad opus domini Cant' archiepiscopi ad quem medio tempore litis inter patronos , presentatos et loci episcopum de consuetudine approbata et diutius optenta fructus et obventiones ecclesiarum pertinere dinoscuntur custodiendos apppositi commisimus . Verum quia iidem abbates nobis de hujusmodi fructibus vel exitibus eorundem non responderunt aut satisfecerunt , vobis seu alteri vestrum in virtute obediencie et sub pena districtiois canonice firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus peremptorie citetis seu citari faciatis predictos abbates quod compareant coram nobis vel commissario nostro in ecclesia beate Marie de Arcubus Lond' octavo die juridicto post octavas Sancti Hillarii super hujusmodi custodia sequestri responsuri , computum reddituri de eodem et plenarie satisfacturi , facturi ulterius et recepturi quod juris fuerit et rationis . Et quid inde feceritis , nos vel commissarium nostrum dictis die et loco certificetis distincte et aperte sub pena predicta per litteras vestras patentes harum seriem continentes . Datum in festo circumceisionis domini anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo . — Unde nos sentientes ex hujusmodi mandato juri nostro prejudiciali valde et nostre possessioni et ecclesie nostre ac archidiaconis nostris ex premissis omnibus et singulis per prefatum officialem Cant' injuste et indebite pregravari et gravatus esse , sedem apostolicam pro nobis , jure et possessioni nostra et ecclesia nostra predicta ac archidiaconis nostris antedictis ac omnibus quorum interest et quos negotium presens tangit , sacrosanctam sedem apostolicam in hiis scriptis appellamus et apostolos petimus cum effectu , supponentes nos , jus et possessionem nostram ac ecclesiam nostram et archidiaconos [*folio 16v*] prefatos et omnia bona nostra et omnes nobis adherentes protectioni sancte sedis apostolicæ supradicte . Et ne dominus Cant' archiepiscopus suusve officialis vel aliquis alius eorum auctoritate seu mandato aliquid in nostri , juris nostri et possessionis nostre , ecclesie nostre et archidiaconorum nostrorum prejudicium quicquam diffinat , statuatur , precipiat vel decernat , citando , monendo , suspendendo , interdicens , excommunicando , sequestrando vel quovismodo alio procedendo , sedem apostolicam antedictam provocamus , appellamus et apostolos petimus sicut prius . Facta fuit hec appellatio apud Tyngheirst' kalendis Februarii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo et lecta per magistrum Gocelinum de Kirmington' canonicum Lincoln' quem dictus dominus episcopus ibidem presens constituit organum sue vocis ad interponendum et legendum appellationem prescriptam , presentibus magistris Henrico de Nassington' , Johanne le Flemeng' , Waltero de Wutton' , Roberto de

¹ Blank in MS.

Kivelingwrth', domino Willelmo de Stokton' canonicis predictae Lincoln' ecclesie, dominis Johanne de Scalleby de Sutton' et Roberto de Kybwrth' de Sadington' ecclesiarum rectoribus, Johanne de Feriby clerico et Johanne de Bayton' armigero litterato et aliis testibus multis. Qua quidem appellatione perfecta predictus dominus Lincoln' oretenus statim protestabatur de notificando eandem predicto domino Cant' vel ejus officiali quam cito ipsorum copiam vel eorum alterius presenciam oportune posset habere.

APPELLATIO.¹ Another appeal to the pope on the same subject, directed particularly against the appointment of custodians by the official of Canterbury. A note is added at the end that William John of Anlaby, notary public, was present at the bishop's request and redacted each appeal separately in the form of public instruments. Fingest, February 1, 1291.

Eisdem die, anno et loco, presentibus testibus supradictis, lecta fuit quedam alia appellatio per eundem magistrum Gocelinum vice dicti domini episcopi tunc presentis sub forma sequenti: — In dei nomine amen. Licet in civitate et diocese Lincoln' de antiqua et approbata et hactenus pacifice observata consuetudine sit optentum quod cum ecclesias episcopo Lincoln' subjectas in Lincoln' civitate vel diocese vacare contingerit, Lincoln' episcopus qui est pro tempore in hujusmodi ecclesiis sic vacantibus custodes ponere potest et debet qui fructus, redditus et proventus ecclesiarum ipsarum colligat et conservat² quousque eisdem ecclesiis de rectoribus sit provisum, ac nos Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus nomine ecclesie nostre Lincoln' fuerimus et simus in possessione juris vel quasi custodes ut premittitur deputandi, officialis tamen curie Cant' nitens falcem in messem mittere alienam, ad colligendum fructus, redditus et proventus beneficiorum vacantium in diocese Lincoln', super quibus inter quasvis partes in predicta Cant' curia controversia vertitur seu questio agitur de facto cum de jure non possit de novo yconomos constituere seu custodes in hujusmodi beneficiis pendente lite inter partes hujusmodi in curia antedicta, propter quod pro parte nostra ad sedem apostolicam extitit provocatum. Qua quidem provocatione non obtante sed ipsa potius vilipensa non absque sedis apostolice contemptu nobis et juri nostro possessionique nostre et ecclesie nostre Lincoln' inferens graviora, nostro officiali mandavit per litteras suas ut abbates de Brunn' et de Nuttele nostre diocesis et nobis immediate subjectos, quibus se asserit custodiam fructuum et proventuum ecclesiarum de Colstrwrth' et de Quenton' nostre diocesis super quibus in dicta Cant' curia aliquamdiu questio mota fuit commississe citaret, ut

¹ The words 'pro vacationibus ecclesiarum' are added in the margin in a fourteenth-century hand.

² *Sic, recte* 'colligant et conservant'.

de hujusmodi fructibus et proventibus responderent ac plenarie sibi satisfacerent de eisdem prout in dictis litteras infrascripti tenoris plenius continetur : — Officialis curie Cant' discreto viro¹ officiali Lincoln' vel ejus commissario generali etc , ut supra in proxima appellatione . — Unde nos sentientes ex hujusmodi mandato juri nostro prejudiciali valde et nostre possessioni et ecclesie nostre Lincoln' ac archidiaconis nostris ex premisses omnibus et singulis per prefatum officialem Cant' injuste et indebite pregravari et gravatos esse , sedem apostolicam pro nobis , jure et possessione nostra , ecclesia nostra predicta et archidiaconis nostris ac omnibus quorum interest et quos negotium presens tangit , sacrosanctam sedem apostolicam in hiis scriptis appellamus et apostolos petimus cum effectu , supponentes nos , jus et possessionem nostram ac ecclesiam nostram et archidiaconos prefatos ac omnia bona nostra et omnes nobis adherentes protectioni sancte sedis apostolice supradicte . Et ne dominus Cant' archiepiscopus suusve officialis vel aliquis alius eorum auctoritate seu mandato aliquid in nostri , juris nostri et possessionis nostre , ecclesie nostre ac archidiaconorum nostrorum prejudicium quicquam diffinat , statuatur , precipiat vel decrevat , citando , mouendo , suspendendo , interdicens , excommunicando , sequestrando vel quovismodo alio procedendo , sedem apostolicam antedictam provocamus et appellamus et apostolos petimus sicut prius . Qua quidem appellatione perlecta , predictus dominus Lincoln' episcopus oretenus statim protestabatur sicut proximo de innovando et notificando appellationem predicto domino Cant' archiepiscopo vel ejus officiali quam cito eorundem vel eorum alterius presenciam habere posset oportune . Interpositioni etiam utriusque appellationis tam hujusmodi quam proximo precedentis , presens fuit Willelmus Johannes de Anlouby publicus notarius qui ad rogatum dicti domini episcopi utram appellationem prescriptam redegit singillatim in publica instrumenta.

COMMISSIO AD EXIGENDUM CLERICOS APUD OXON'. Letters patent announcing that the bishop had appointed the dean of Oxford and Master Ralph of Bungay, rector of S. Peter-le-Bailey, as his commissaries to claim for the church courts all clerks arrested by the lay power on charges of theft, homicide or other crimes and imprisoned at Oxford. Osney, February 24, 1291.

Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis ad quos pervenerit littera presens , O. permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus salutem in auctore salutis . Universitati vestre notum facimus per presentes quod ad exigendum et recipiendum vice et auctoritate nostra secundum libertatis ecclesiastice consuetudinem quoscumque clericos ac alios viros ecclesiasticos pro sinistra suspicione furti , homicidii seu alia quavis transgressione captos et apud Oxon' incarcerationatos

¹ Blank in MS.

ac etiam pro processu temporis capiendos et ibidem incarcerandos a justiciariis domini regis seu aliis quibuscumque , ipsos liberandi habentibus potestatem , ut de eis fiat in foro ecclesiastico quod secundum canonicis sanctiones fuerit faciendum , dilectis in Christo filiis decano Oxon' et magistro Radulpho de Bungeye rectori ecclesie beati Petri in ballio ejusdem vices nostras [*folio 17*] committimus cum cohercionis canonicis potestate . In cujus rei testimonium litteras nostras fieri fecimus has patentes . Datum Osen' VI kalendas Martii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to John of Radclive (Radeclive) acolyte, to receive all holy orders. Osney, February 24, 1291.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to Walter of Hatton, monk of Spalding. Osney, February 24, 1291.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to William of Middleton (Middelton') acolyte. Osney, February 24, 1291.

LICENCIA DEDIDICANDI ALTARI. Licence to Philip vicar of the church of S. Giles in Oxford (Sancti Egidii de Oxon') to have the altar of S. Michael in the said church dedicated by any Catholic bishop. Osney, February 24, 1291.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS. To the dean of Yarborough, telling him to excommunicate all those who infringed the rights and liberties of the church of Immingham or prevented the prioress and convent of Appleton, who had appropriated the said church, from collecting their tithes there, and to report to the bishop. Anyone protesting against the sentence was to be cited to appear before the bishop. Eynsham, February 26, 1291.

O. etc , decano de Jordeburg' salutem etc . Cum omnes auferentes ecclesiis sua jura et earundem libertates per maliciam et contra justiciam infringentes seu contentiose turbantes easdem sint majoris excommunicationis sententia sacrarum constitutionum auctoritate ligati , quod secundum interpretationem ultimi concilii Lameh'¹ non solum de² generalibus libertatibus universalis ecclesie verum etiam de specialibus tam temporalibus quam spiritualibus ecclesie cujuscumque intelligendum existit , vobis firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus omnes illos qui ecclesiam de Immingham quam priorissa de conventus de Appelton' in proprios usus possident suo jure injuste privare seu libertates ejusdem ecclesie infringere aut etiam contentiose turbare presumunt , dictas priorissam et conventus decimas ratione dicte ecclesie sibi debitas abducere , terram ad eandem ecclesiam pertinentem colere , et alia que eis

¹ The Council of Lambeth in 1281.

² Interlined.

ut rectorem ipsius in pura elemosina sua incumbunt facere , per maliciam et contra justiciam non sinendo , in dictam excommunicationis sententiam incidisse et excommunicatos esse tribus diebus dominicis et festivis intra missarum solempnia , pulsatis campanis , candelis accensis , solempniter et puplice per vos seu alios in genere nuncietis . Et si quos in publicatione hujusmodi sentencie inveneritis reclamantes , ipsos citetis peremptorie quod certo die pro vestro arbitrio moderando ubicumque in nostra diocese tunc fuerimus compareant coram nobis , dictis priorissa et conventu super premissis prout justum fuerit responsuri , scituri et recepturi quod justicia suadet . Et quid super hiis feceritis nos litteris vestris patentibus harum seriem et nomina omnium ac singulorum quos occasione premissa citaveritis plenarie continentibus certiores reddetis tempore oportuno . Datum apud Eynsham , IIII kalendas Martii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo et pontificatus nostri anno undecimo.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to Hugh of Compton (Cumpton'), canon of Osney, son of a subdeacon and an unmarried woman. Hugh received a testimonial from the abbot and canons of Osney. Eynsham, February 26, 1291.

LICENCIA HABENDI ORATORIUM. Licence to Sir William Burnel provost of Wells (prepositus de Welles) to have a private chapel in his house at Oxford (Oxon.). Eynsham, February 25, 1291.

PROCURATORIUM. Note that on February 25, 1291, Master Stephen of Tathwell left Osney for Rome bearing letters (given in full) empowering him to appoint another proctor or other proctors in his place. These letters were dated at Osney, February 23, 1291.

V kalendas Martii anno XI recessit magister Stephanus de Tawell' de Osen' versus curiam Romanam et habuit secum procuratoria quorum tenores subsecuntur¹ : — Universis² ad quos presentes littere pervenerint , Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus salutem in domino sempiternam . Ad universitatis vestre noticiam volumus pervenire quod nos dilecto nobis in Christo magistro Stephano de Tawell' nostre Lincoln' ecclesie canonico ad eligendum nostro nomine et vice nostra constituendum , ordinandum et faciendum procuratorem vel procuratores pro nobis et ecclesia nostra ad impetrandum in curia Romana pro nobis et ecclesia nostra et contradicendum impetrationibus aliorum , in iudices et loca conveniendum , alium procuratorem vel procuratores loco sui substituendum , potestatem damus et mandatum concedimus speciale. Damus etiam eidem magistro potestatem procuratorem vel procuratores per ipsum constitutum vel constitutos revocandi et alium vel alios constituendi , eligendi et faciendi pro nobis et ecclesia

¹ *Sic, recte* 'subsequuntur'.

² Drawing of a hand in the margin.

nostra quotienscumque et quandocumque sibi et nobis viderit expedire . Ratum habentes et habituros et firmum quicquid constitutus vel constituti , constituendos vel constituendi per ipsum seu substitutus vel substituendus a constituto vel constituendo in premissis duxerit faciendum . In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum . Datum apud Osen' XXIII die mensis Februarii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo.

PROCURATORIUM. Letters appointing Master Reginald of S. Alban's and Master Frank de Podiobonicii proctors of the bishop in the Roman curia. Osney, February 21, 1291.

Universis etc , ut supra . Ad universitatis vestre noticiam volumus pervenire quod nos dilectos nobis in Christo magistros Reginaldum de Sancto Albano et Francum de Podio Bonicii procuratores nostros ad impetrandum pro nobis in curia Romana et contra — [*folio 17^v*] dicendum impetrationibus aliorum , in iudices et loca conveniendum , alium procuratorem loco suo substituendum , facimus , ordinamus et constituimus per presentes . Ratum habentes et firmum ac habituros quicquid ipsi duo vel unus eorum vel substitutus ab eisdem vel uno eorum in premissis duxerit faciendum . In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum . Datum apud Osen' XXI die mensis Februar' anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo.

[No HEADING.]¹ Letters appointing Master Stephen of Tathwell proctor of the bishop at the Roman curia. Osney, February 23, 1291.

Universis , etc , ut supra . Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus salutem in domino sempiternam . Ad universitatis vestre noticiam volumus pervenire quod nos in omnibus causis et negotiis ad Romanam curiam devolutis seu imposterum auctoritate juris seu hominis necessario devolvendis et ecclesiam nostram qualitercumque contingentibus coram quibuscumque iudicibus , auditoribus , compromissariis seu arbitris , dilectum nobis in Christo magistrum Stephanum de Tawell' ecclesie nostre Lincoln' canonicum procuratorem nostrum ordinamus , constituimus et facimus per presentes . Dantes eidem potestatem specialem agendi , defendendi , excipiendi , replicandi , in animam nostram jurandi , de calumpnia et veritate dicenda et quodlibet aliud genus liciti sacramenti prestandi , expensas petendi et recipiendi et jurandi super eisdem , beneficium restitutionis in integrum tam principaliter quam incidenter ac status nostri et ecclesie nostre reformationem petendi et recipiendi , testes ac instrumenta producendi , et producta contra nos reprobandi , crimina et defectus opponendi , impetrandi et

¹ There is a drawing of a hand in the margin and a note 'Ista interlineari fecit magister Robertus de Kivelingwrth pro exemplari habendo ad constituendum quosdam procuratores nomine suo'.

contradicendi , in iudices et loca conveniendi , procuratorem unum vel plures substituendi , et eundem vel eosdem revocandi , et alium vel alios constituendi et substituendi quotiens et quando viderit expedire , et omnia alia faciendi que generale vel speciale mandatum requirunt . Rem ratam haberi et iudicatum solvi pro eodem substituto vel substitutis , substituendo vel substituendis ab eodem sub ypotheca omnium bonorum nostrorum promittentes et cautiones specialiter exponentes , et hoc omnibus quorum interest vel interesse poterit in futuris significare volumus presentium per tenorem . In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum . Datum apud Osen' XXIII die mensis Februarii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo.

[No heading]¹ Letters giving to Master Stephen of Tathwell power to appoint other proctors in the bishop's name and to revoke the appointments so made if he should think fit. Osney, February 23, 1291.

Universis ad quos presentes littere pervenerint , Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus salutem in domino sempiternam . Ad universitatis vestre noticiam volumus pervenire quod nos dilecto nobis in Christo magistro Stephano de Tawell' nostre Lincoln' ecclesie canonico ad eligendum nostro nomine et vice nostra constituendum , ordinandum et faciendum procuratorem vel procuratores pro nobis et ecclesia nostra in omnibus causis et negotiis ad curiam Romanam legitime devolutis seu etiam devolvendis de necessitate juris et hominis ad agendum ; defendendum , excipiendum , replicandum , in animam nostram iurandum , de calumpnia et de veritate dicenda et quodlibet aliud genus liciti sacramenti prestandum , expensas petendum et recipiendum et iurandum super eisdem , beneficium restitutionis in integrum tam principaliter quam incidenter , ac status nostri et ecclesie nostre reformationem petendum et recipiendum , testes et instrumenta producendum et producta contra nos reprobandum , criminina et defectus opponendum , procuratorem unum vel plures substituendum et eundem vel eosdem revocandum et alium vel alios constituendum et substituendum quotiens vel quando viderint vel viderit expedire , et ad omnia alia que generale vel speciale mandatum requirunt faciendum , mandatum damus per presentes et potestatem concedimus specialem . Damus² magistro S. potestatem procuratorem vel procuratores per ipsum constitutum vel constitutos revocandi et [alium]² vel alios constituendi , eligendi et faciendi pro nobis et ecclesia nostra quotienscumque et quodcumque sibi et nobis [viderit]² expedire . Rem ratam haberi et iudicatum solvi constituto ab eodem vel constitutis , constituendo vel constituendis , substituto vel substitutis , substituendo vel substituendis ,

¹ Drawing of a hand in the margin.

² Hole in the MS.

et cautiones specialiter exponentes , et hoc omnibus quorum interest vel interesse poterit in futuris significari volumus presentium per tenorem . In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum . Datum apud Osen' XXIII die mensis Februarii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo . Et est sciendum quod dictus magister Stephanus duo procuratoria ultima habuit¹ duplicata , sed in altero procuratorio tenoris ultimi defecerunt illa verba que in quinta et sexta linea ascendendo scribuntur de grossiori littera textuali.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Ralph of Swepestone (Swepeston') living at Leicester, acolyte, to receive all holy orders. Eynsham, February 27, 1291.

LICENCIA CAPIENDI ASSISAM. Licence to Gilbert of Thornton and his fellow-justices to hold, in Lent, an assize of novel disseisin between Margaret daughter of Thomas de Normanville (Normanville), plaintiff, and Sir John of Wighton (Wigton') and others, defendants. Eynsham, February 28, 1291.

LICENCIA CAPIENDI ASSISAM. Licence to Sir Reginald of Leigh (Lega) and his fellow-justices to hold, in Lent, an assize between Agnes widow of Alan son of Geoffrey of South Kilworth (Suth-kivelingwrth'), plaintiff, and Philip le Breton of Bosworth (Boreswrth') and others, defendants. Eynsham, February 28, 1291.

[folio 18]²

[HEADING TORN OFF.] Commission to Master H in the business of the Earl of Cornwall. Bampton, February 28, 1291.

[HEADING TORN OFF] Grant of forty days indulgence to all contrite persons [who should pray for the soul of] Lady Elizabeth Burdon whose body is buried in the chapel of S. Bernard at Ruff . . . saying a Pater and an Ave. Date missing.

[HEADING TORN OFF.] [Letters dimissory] to Hugh Beaumont. Bampton, March 1, 1291.

[HEADING TORN OFF.] Letters patent, [giving to] Master Stephen of T[athwell] power to [raise] a hundred marks sterling from merchants for his expenses at the Roman curia. Cold Norton, March 3, 1291.

¹ Not clear in the MS.

² Folios 18, 19 and 20 have been brutally hacked with a knife. Half of folios 18 and 20 has disappeared, and only a small triangular fragment remains of folio 19. It is impossible to reconstruct any entry on these folios in its entirety, but I have given the substance, so far as possible, of those entries which can be partially deciphered. Conjectural passages in the text are enclosed in square brackets.

[HEADING TORN OFF.] Letters dimissory to R Banbury, March 5, 1291.

[HEADING TORN OFF.] Order to warn and subsequently excommunicate those who prevented the will of the late John of Wheelton (Whelton) from being put into effect. Chadlington (Chadelington') and Shipton (Schipeton') are mentioned. Cold Norton, March 3, 1291.

[HEADING TORN OFF.] [Request to the King for the arrest of] Henry Apothecary, Henry Gaund senior, Henry Tyneker, de Helle, Maud Tyson, Maud Wyliers and Bruno de, who had been excommunicated [for more than forty days]. Banbury, March 7, 1291.

[HEADING TORN OFF.] To the abbot of, granting him letters dimissory on behalf of two monks, Stephen of Wells (Welles) and William of Tewkesbury ('Teukesbir'). Banbury, March 9, 1291.

[HEADING TORN OFF.] Commission for the discharge of the executors of one Thomas. Croxton is mentioned, possibly as the living held by one of the commissaries. Banbury, March 9, 1291.

[*folio 18v*]

[HEADING TORN OFF.] Letters dimissory to William son of Thomas of Duns Tew (Donustewe), acolyte, to receive all holy orders from any English bishop. ? Northampton. Date missing.

[HEADING TORN OFF.] Note of two letters patent, given to Richard of Burford (Bereford') clerk of the King, concerning the taxable value of the churches of Shenley and Ufford. Date missing.

[HEADING TORN OFF.] Letters dimissory to John son of Hubert of Buckminster (Bokeminster), acolyte. Date missing.

[HEADING TORN OFF.] Letters dimissory to Nicholas Thurberd of Lillingstone (Lillingston'). Date missing.

[HEADING TORN OFF.] Dispensation for bastardy to Robert Th' of Aswarby or Aswardby (Asewardby). Date missing.

[HEADING TORN OFF.] A fairly long letter, ordering someone to cite the rector of Pickworth (Pykewrth') to appear before the bishop and answer for his failure to reside in his parish in spite of repeated instructions to do so. Northampton, March 19, 1291.

[HEADING TORN OFF.] Letter of Philip of Willoughby (Wylugby) Dean of Lincoln [and the chapter] appointing [Master] Stephen of Tathwell (Tawell') and Richard de Spina as proctors in some business concerning the prebend of Nassington. Lincoln, March 1, 1291.

[HEADING TORN OFF.] Letters patent of Philip of Willoughby (Wylugby) Dean of Lincoln.¹

[*folio 19*]

[HEADING TORN OFF.] A small fragment of a letter dated at Orvieto, November 27 (the year is missing).

[HEADING TORN OFF.] To the official of the archdeacon of Northampton or the dean of Daventry, describing an outrage in Daventry churchyard when a band of men attacked a clerk who was clinging to the [church] door and dragged him away in the sight of many people who were assembled because it was market day. [Injunction to excommunicate the offenders ?] Date missing.

[*folio 19v*]

[HEADING TORN OFF.] A small fragment which appears to be part of a letter appointing a proctor or proctors. Date missing.

[HEADING TORN OFF.] To Sir Roger Brabazun and his fellow-justices. Licence to hold, in Lent, an assize between John le Venur, plaintiff, and² and William Burdet, defendants, about a manor. Date missing.

[HEADING TORN OFF.] Letters dimissory to John of Foston, acolyte. Liddington, date missing.

[*folio 20*]

[HEADING TORN OFF.] The text of this letter is impossible to reconstruct. It is written in the bishop's name and dated March 30, 1291.

[HEADING TORN OFF.] The bishop to the abbot and convent of B . . . [quoting a letter of] the Archbishop of Canterbury about the rights of the King of England in the kingdom of Scotland, and asking for some information to be sent to the bishop. Liddington, March 31, 1291.

[HEADING TORN OFF.] [A letter ordering someone to deal with those who had unjustly seized a church] in the same form as that

¹ All that survives of this entry is part of the first line.

² The other name (or names) has been lost.

concerning those who had seized the church of Skegness (Skegnes). Liddington, March 31 1291.

[HEADING TORN OFF.] Commission to the prior of¹ and the¹ of the hospital of S. Thomas beyond the bridge of Stamford (Staunford') [to discharge] the executors of Hugh called Prior of Stamford, and report to the bishop. Liddington, March 31, 1291.

[HEADING TORN OFF.] Commission to¹ to discharge¹ and Ralph called Pesshun, chaplain, executors of¹ Liddington, April 1, 1291.

[HEADING TORN OFF.] To the archdeacon of Leicester or his official. Order to excommunicate somebody. Liddington, April 1, [1291].

[HEADING TORN OFF.] Letters dimissory, (the name is missing). Liddington, April 2, 1291.

[*folio 20v*]

[HEADING TORN OFF.] [Letters dimissory] to¹ son of Peter of Hinckley (Hinkele), acolyte. Date missing.

[HEADING TORN OFF.] [Appointment of commissaries including]¹ of the hospital of S. Thomas beyond the bridge of Stamford (Staunford') in a lawsuit concerning a marriage between Agnes daughter of Alice, [plaintiff] and Thomas, defendant. Date missing.

[HEADING TORN OFF.] Appointment of commissaries in a lawsuit concerning a divorce, in which¹ de Fauconberg', knight, was involved. April 2-5, 1291.

[HEADING TORN OFF.] Commission to¹ and Hugh custodian of the hospital of S. Thomas beyond the bridge of¹ to deal with the extremely inefficient executors of certain wills, including those of Sir John of Folksworth (Folkeswrth') knight, Sir William of Polebrook (Pokebrok), Roger,¹ chaplain of Stainby (Styandby), and the wife of Sir John Gobaud, knight. April 4, 1291.

[HEADING TORN OFF.] Order to warn and if necessary excommunicate people [who were not paying, or preventing others from paying] customary offerings to a church. April, 1291.

¹ The names are missing.

[*folio 21*]

INDULGENCIA. Grant of forty days' indulgence to all confessed and contrite persons of the diocese of Lincoln, and others whose diocesan bishops should approve, who should say a Pater and an Ave for the soul of Stephen of Sutton, Archdeacon of Northampton and brother of the bishop, whose body is buried in the church of Empingham, and for all the faithful departed, especially those buried in the same church or churchyard. All indulgences granted or to be granted in future for the same purpose by other bishops were ratified. Sleaford, April 7, 1291.

Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Oliverus, etc, salutem in auctore salutis. Dum caros et propinquos nostros veraciter penitentes nobis adimit sors humana, tam constantis animi quam salubris consilii est sub spe fruendi societate eorum in eterna quiete gemitus et dolores ad quos pro hujusmodi obeuntibus infirmitas nature compellit convertere in orationes devotas, quibus auctor nostre redemptionis placatus memor verbi sui quod dixit 'nolo mortem peccatoris sed ut magis convertatur et vivat' eos facilius a purgatorii cruciato educat, volentes igitur ad hujusmodi orationes Christi fideles allektivis indulgenciarum muneribus propensius excitare, de dei omnipotentis misericordia, gloriose virginis Marie, beati Hugonis confessoris ac omnium sanctorum meritis et precibus confidentes, omnibus vere penitentibus et confessis parochianis nostris ac aliis quorum diocesani hanc nostram indulgenciam ratam habuerint, qui pro anima cari germani nostri quondam domini Stephani de Sutton archidiaconi Norhamt' defuncti, cujus corpus in prebendali ecclesia de Empingham' requiescit humatum, et pro animabus omnium in dicta ecclesia seu cimiterio ejusdem ac ubilibet in Christo quiescentium orationem dominicam cum salutatione predicte virginis gloriose dixerint mente pia, XL dies de injuncta sibi penitencia misericorditer relaxamus, Ratificantes omnes indulgencias ab episcopis quibuscumque concessas ac imposterum concedendas. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum. Datum apud Lafford' VII idus Aprilis anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS. Note of a general sentence of excommunication against all those who were infringing the rights and liberties of the Cistercian abbey of Warden (Wardon'). The sentence was to be published by the dean of Shefford in the churches of Warden and Southill (Suthgivel') and in any other church of the deanery in which the Abbot of Warden might require that the sentence should be read. Westborough, April 9, 1291.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation to Walter of Gaddesby, priest, for being ordained by the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, in

whose diocese he had lived for twenty years, without letters dimissory, and for ministering in orders thus received without a dispensation. He was given a penance and suspended from ministration for a period. Scarle, April 11, 1291.

APPELLATIO.¹ Renewed appeal to the pope against the action of the Official of the Archbishop of Canterbury in disregarding the former appeal and reiterating his demand that the Abbots of Bourne and Notley should come and answer for the custody and revenues of the churches of Colsterworth and Quinton. The official's letters are given in full. The bishop's appeal was issued at Sleaford, April 9, 1291, and witnessed by Master Durand Archdeacon of Stow, Master John le Fleming, Master Jocelyn of Kirmington and Master Robert of Kilworth, canons of Lincoln, Robert of Thorpe rector of Asfordby, Robert of Kibworth rector of Saddington and John de Scalleby rector of Sutton-le-Marsh, Hugh of Harwood, John of Ferriby, John of Bayton, Richard of Sutton and many others. It was read again at Scarle on April 11 by Master Robert of Kilworth, in the presence of all the above witnesses except Robert of Kibworth. There were present also William of Anlaby, notary public, Brother Ralph of Tofts and Brother John of Yarwell, Franciscans, Master Walter of Wootton, canon of Lincoln, Richard of Marham and Richard Burdon.² William of Anlaby was told to redact the appeal in the form of a public instrument.

In dei nomine amen . Licet vacantibus ecclesiis in parochiis Lincoln' diocesis ad episcopum Lincoln' qui pro tempore fuerit deputare et ponere yconomos seu custodes ad colligendum , custodiendum et conservandum omnes fructus , redditus et proventus ecclesiarum hujusmodi ipsarum vacatione durante , ac de ipsis fructibus , redditibus et proventibus sic collectis , custoditis et conservatis auctoritate propria libere disponere de jure et consuetudine antiqua et per longa retrotempora pacifice deservata pertinere notorie dinoscatur , et nullo modo ad dominum archiepiscopum Cant' seu ejus officialem vel sua vice fungentem , nisi forsitan in certis casibus a jure permissis si tamen exprimantur ab ipsis , etiam si inter presentatos ad ipsas vacantes ecclesias et quoscumque alios super eisdem coram dicto domino archiepiscopo seu ejus officiale vel alio sua vice fungente quomodo ventiletur , nosque Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus ac predecessores nostri jure et potestate deputandi yconomos seu custodes hujusmodi ut premittitur , ac libere disponendi de fructibus et exitibus perceptis ab ipsis usi et gavisii fuerimus a tempore cujus

¹ The words ' Pro vacationibus ecclesiarum ' are written in the margin in a fourteenth-century hand.

² The name of Robert of Thorpe, who was present on April 9, appears in this list by mistake.

memoria non existit , magister tamen Petrus de Sancto Mario officialis curie Cant' magistro Henrico de Nassington' officiali nostro per suas litteras prius dedit in mandatis sub pena districtiois canonice ut ipse peremptorie citaret¹ abbates de Brunne et de Nuttele nostre diocesis quibus se dixerat custodiam sequestri facti sicut dixit per ipsum in ecclesiis de Colstwrth' et de Quenton' nostre diocesis , lite super eisdem pendente in curia Cant' , commisisse ac yconomos seu custodes earundem ecclesiarum deputasse pro fructibus et obventionibus dictarum ecclesiarum colligendis et salvo ad opus domini Cant' archiepiscopi sicut scripsit custodiendis , quod iidem abbates ad certum diem jam effluxum compararent coram ipso ad reddendum sibi compotum de obventionibus et proventibus ecclesiarum earundem et ad satisfaciendum sibi plenarie de eisdem , cum tamen nec casus esset , nec certum casum assignasset , quo sequestrum et fructus huiusmodi seu ordinatio aut dispositio eorundem vel yconomorum seu custodium deputato ad dictum dominum archiepiscopum pertinere poterant et debebant , super quibus infra eidem domino archiepiscopo et officiali suo referimus et referre intendimus questionem coram iudice competenti , ne idem esse possit actor et iudex ; quarum litterarum ejusdem officialis curie Cant' tenor talis est : — Officialis curie Cant' discreto viro¹ officiali Lincoln' vel ejus commissario [*folio 21v*] generali salutem in vero salutari . Nuper pendente lite in curia Cant' super ecclesiis de Colstwrth' et de Quenhill' sive Quenton' Lincoln' diocesis inter presentatos ad easdem et presentantes ex parte una , et dominium O. dei gracia Lincoln' episcopum ex altera , fructus et obventiones earundem medio tempore sequestravimus et custodiam sequestri huiusmodi abbatibus de Brunne et de Nuttele pro fructibus et obventionibus dictarum ecclesiarum colligendis salvo ad opus domini Cant' archiepiscopi ad quem medio tempore litis inter patronos et presentatos et loci episcopum de consuetudine approbata et diutius optenta fructus et obventiones ecclesiarum pertinere dinoscuntur , custodiendis apppositi commisimus . Verum quia iidem abbates nobis de huiusmodi fructibus et exitibus eorundem non responderunt aut satisfecerunt , vobis seu alteri vestrum in virtute obediencie et sub pena districtiois canonice firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus peremptorie citetis seu citari facietis predictos abbates quod compareant coram nobis vel commissario nostro in ecclesia Beate Marie de Arcubus London' octavo die juridico post octavas Sancti Hillarii super huiusmodi custodia sequestri responsuros , compotum reddituros de eodem , et plenarie satisfacturos , facturos ulterius et recepturos quod juris fuerit et rationis . Et quid inde feceritis , nos vel commissarium nostrum dictis die et loco certificetis distincte et aperte sub pena predicta per litteras vestras patentes harum seriem continentes . Datum in festo circumcisionis domini , anno domini

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M. CC. nonagesimo . — Propter quod nos tunc temporis attendentes supradictum mandatum ipsius officialis Curie Cant' in ecclesie nostre Lincoln' et episcopalis dignitatis ac nostrum prejudicium manifestum , et jurisdictionis ac potestatis nostre et multorum aliorum elisionem seu enervationem injustam notorie multipliciter redundare , et ex hoc mandato et processu nos ac alios inferiores prelatos et subditos nostros contra justiciam graviter et indebite pregravari , sanctam sedem apostolicam pro nobis , jure , jurisdictione , potestate ac consuetudine et possessione nostra , necnon et pro ecclesia nostra Lincoln' et inferioribus prelati et subditi nostris omnibus quorum interfuerit , et quos negotium contingebat , infra tempus legitimum postquam predictum mandatum officialis curie Cant' ad nostram noticiam pervenerat , legitime , solempniter et publice appellavimus et in scriptis et apostolos petivimus cum effectu , supponentes nos , jus , jurisdictionem , potestatem , consuetudinem , libertatem et possessionem nostram in premissis et circa ea ac ecclesiam nostram Lincoln' ac capitulum totum ac singulos de capitulo et archidiaconos locorum predictorum ac abbates predictos et omnes alios quorum interest necnon omnia bona nostra ac insuper omnes et singulos nobis adherentes in hoc casu protectioni et tuitioni sancte sedis apostolice supradicte . Et quia hujusmodi gravamen maxime nobis et officiali nostro sic illatum cautiore contra futura gravamina nos esse premonuit , consimiliter ne dominus Cant' archiepiscopus suusve officialis vel aliquis alius ipsorum auctoritate seu mandato in ecclesie nostre Lincoln' , ac juris , consuetudinis , libertatis et possessionis nostre in premissis et circa ea , seu officialis nostri , aut archidiaconorum , abbatum seu aliquorum aliorum quos presens negotium directe vel indirecte contingit , prejudicium , injuriam aut gravamen quicquam diffiniendo , statuendo , decernendo , precipiendo , mandando , comminando , citando , monendo , suspendendo , interdicens , excommunicando , publicando , denunciando , observando , sequestrando seu quovis alio modo procedendo aut gravando presumeret attemptare , extunc ad sanctam sedem apostolicam solempniter et publice protinus in scriptis rite duximus provocandum . Set¹ dictus dominus officialis Curie Cant' hujusmodi appellatione et provocatione nostris legitimis prius , ut dictum est , solempniter et publice interjectis , et postmodum coram ipso palam notificatis , innovatis ac denuo interpositis ab eodem , demum ab ipso prorsus neglectis immo contemptis , in apostolice sedis contemptum , iterum officiali nostro per alias litteras suas novissime nunc mandavit , sub pena excommunicationis , quam in ipsum si in executione hujusmodi mandati sui negligens esset vel remissus , in dictis litteris suis se protulisse de facto pretendit , cum variis rationibus de jure non possit , quod predictos abbates peremptorie citaret vel citari faceret quod comparerent coram eo vel ejus

¹ Sic, recte 'sed'.

commissario certo die futuro per se vel per alium ydoneum ,
 computum secundum mandatum superius annotatum reddituri
 et de fructibus ecclesiarum predictarum quam vis contra justiciam
 satisfacturi plene eidem . Quarum litterarum ipsius officialis tenor
 talis est :¹ officialis curie cant' discreto viro magistro Henrico
 de Nassington' domini¹ Lincoln' episcopi officiali vel ejus
 commissario generali salutem in vero salutari . Meminimus vobis
 scripsisse alias sub tenore qui sequitur : '¹ officialis curie
 Cant' discreto viro , etc ' , de verbo ad verbum ut supra in littera
 ejusdem officialis precedenti . Nos autem excusationem vestram
 quam in litteris vestris nobis missis asseruistis propter quam
 executioni mandatum nostrum non mandastis frivolum reputantes ,
 cum non ad vos cui sola executio mandabatur , sed si ita esset
 ad citandos pertineret , ad convincendam tamen vestri cordis
 duritiam iterato secunda jussione vobis in virtute obediencie
 sub pena excommunicationis quam in vos ferimus in hiis scriptis
 si in executione mandati nostri negligentes fueritis vel remissi ,
 precipimus et mandamus quatinus predictos abbates peremptorie
 citetis vel citari faciatis quod compareant coram nobis vel com-
 missario nostro in [folio 22] ecclesia Beate Marie de Arcubus London'
 quarta die juridica post dominicam qua cantatur ' quasimodo geniti '
 per se vel per alium ydoneum computum secundum mandatum
 superius contentum reddituri . Et quid in premissis feceritis ,
 nos vel commissarium nostrum dictis die et loco certificetis sub
 pena predicta per litteras vestras patentes harum seriem continentes .
 Datum die Mercurii proxime post festum Annunciationis dominice ,
 anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo . — Nos igitur nimirum
 sentientes nos et officialem nostrum predictum ex hujusmodi
 processu et mandato officialis curie Cant' multipliciter injurioso ,
 ut in alia appellatione et provocatione nostra superius est ex-
 pressum , et precipue ex inserta in eo excommunicatione injusta
 et sine causa legitima ut vere conjecitur ex eadem , iterum gravius
 indebite pregravari , ab hujusmodi gravamine et injuria cumulata
 pro nobis et officiale nostro predicto , ac omnibus aliis quos ex
 parte nostra , ut dictum est , negotium presens contingit , ad
 sanctam sedem apostolicam infra tempus legitimum postquam
 istud posterius mandatum nuper ad noticiam nostram pervenit ,
 coram vobis omnibus testibus ad hoc vocatis specialiter et rogatis
 solempniter et publice in hiis scriptis iterum appellamus et apostolos
 petimus , ac istam appellationem nostram protestamur nos velle
 coram officiale predicto ac alias publice notificare , innovare et
 denuo appellare et apostolos petere cum effectu , aliis appellationibus
 et provocationibus nostris predictis nichilominus firmiter inherentes ,
 a quibus omnibus nullo modo recedere intendimus pro nobis aut
 aliquo alio de predictis tacite vel expresse , supponentes in forma
 qua prius ecclesiam nostram Lincoln' , nos et officialem nostrum

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ac capitulum nostrum et singulos de capitulo , archidiaconos et quoscumque alios subditos nostros et omnes nobis adherentes , et omnes nostros ac omnia nostra beneficia et bona protectioni et tuitioni sacrosancte sedis apostolice supradicte . Et ex habundanti ne dominus archiepiscopus Cant' vel ejus officialis seu quivis alius auctoritate sua vel ad mandatum ipsius occasione aliqua predictorum , quicquam ecclesie nostre Lincoln' ac nostrum , seu officialis nostri , archidiaconorum , canonicorum , duorum abbatum predictorum , seu aliorum subditorum nostrorum aut nobis adherentium vel eisdem , diffiniendo , statuendo , decernendo , interloquendo , precipiendo , mandando , citando , vocando , suspendendo , interdicendo , excommunicando , puplicando , denunciando seu hoc fieri faciendo , privando , spoliando , perturbando seu alio modo quocumque gravando , presumat seu presumant aliquialiter attemptare , sanctam sedem apostolicam ut prius solempniter et puplice iterum et iterum in huius scriptis provocamus et appellamus , aliis appellationibus et provocationibus nostris predictis nichilominus firmiter inherentes et insuper protestantes nos velle notificare et innovare appellationem nostram huiusmodi , ac etiam denuo appellare et apostolos petere cum effectum in presencia predicti officialis curie Cant' et aliorum prout jus exigerit ac eis notificare appellationem et provocationem nostram huiusmodi cum eorum copia haberi poterit pro loco et tempore oportuno . Actum et datum in castro nostro Lafford' die Lune in crastino dominice in passione domini , anno ejusdem M. CC. nonagesimo primo . Hiis testibus , Magistris Durando Archidiacono Stowe , Johanne le Flemeng' , Gocelino de Kirnington' et Roberto de Kivelingwrth' canonicis Lincoln' , dominis Roberto de Thorp' , Johanne de Scalleby et Roberto de Kybbewrth' , de Asshefordby , de Sutton' et de Sadington' ecclesiarum rectoribus , Hugone de Harewud' , Johanne de Feriby , Johanne de Bayton' , Ricardo de Sutton' et aliis multis . Postmodum die Mercurii proxime sequente diem Lune predictam apud Scarle hora vesperarum propter presencia Willelmi de Anlauby puplici notarii iterum recitata fuit appellatio predicta per magistrum Robertum de Kivelingwrth' in cujus ore episcopus tunc et dicto die Lune similiter posuit verba sua presentibus omnibus testibus suprascriptis excepto domino Roberto de Kybbewrth' , presentibus etiam fratre Radulpho de Toftes et fratre Johanne de Jarewell' de ordine minorum , magistro Waltero de Wutton canonico Lincoln' , Roberto de Thorp' , Ricardo de Marham et Ricardo Burdon' . Injunctum etiam fuit Willelmo de Anlauby supradicto quod superactis ibidem puplicum faceret instrumentum.

APPELLATIO CAPITULI LINCOLN. Letter of the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln, supporting the bishop's appeal to the pope against the claims of the official of Canterbury aforesaid, and appealing on their

own account. The appeal was read by John of Stockton in the chapter-house at Lincoln on April 11, 1291, and sealed with the chapter seal in the presence of Ralph de Estria, William of Swineshead, Robert Delisle, Roger of Leighton, Bartholomew of Dunham, Thomas of Newport, Adam of Langton and Walter Norman of Lincoln, vicars of the cathedral, William of Lynn, Richard of Ashby and Walter of Castlethorpe members of the choir, Roger of Newton and Thomas of Carlton, priests, William of Ropsley, Roger of Gretton and other witnesses.

Universis ad quos presens littera pervenerit , Philippus decanus et capitulum Lincoln' salutem in domino . Secundum scita sacrorum canonum attendentes quod venerabilis pater dominus O. dei gracia Lincoln' episcopus et nos capitulum ecclesie sue et nostre Lincoln' constituimus unum corpus , quodque ratione unitatis hujusmodi non modicum nostram interest dignitatem suam episcopalem ac jura , jurisdictionem , potestatem , libertates , consuetudines et possessionem suam habitam in predictis illibita et integra conservari quantum possumus et defendi , et insuper advertentes gravem questionem inter reverendum patrem dominum Johannem dei gracia Cant' archiepiscopum totius Anglie primatem ex parte una , ac venerabilem patrem nostrum predictum ex altera ex diu fuisse et esse subortam super jure et potestate sequestrandis parochiales ecclesias Lincoln' diocesis vacantes , quamdiu pendet lis in curia Cant' occasione quacumque super eisdem , ac deputandi yconomos seu custodes ecclesiarum hujusmodi tempore medio , ac de fructibus et proventibus earundem ecclesiarum [*folio 22v*] tempore vacationis hujusmodi libere disponendi , utraque parte predicta omne jus et potestatem hujusmodi ad se pertinere per modum contradictionis firmiter asserente , quoniam intelleximus e vicino patrem nostrum predictum pro suo jure , potestate , consuetudine , libertate et possessione sua circa premissa pro se ipso ac nobis capitulo suo¹ officiale suo ac omnibus inferioribus prelatiis suis et subditis , ac omnibus aliis quorum interest et sibi adherentibus nudius tertius ad sanctam sedem apostolicam ab injuriis et gravaminibus¹ officialis curie Cant' in scriptis solempniter et publice provocasse et etiam appellasse de verbo ad verbum totaliter sub hac forma : — ' In dei nomine amen . Licet vacantibus ecclesiis parochialibus Lincoln' dyocesis' , et cetera de verbo ad verbum ut supra in proxima appellatione prescripta usque ibi ' postmodum die Mercurii ' etc . — Nos conspicientes ecclesie nostre posse per exactionem et petitionem hujusmodi dicti domini Cant' et officialis sue grave prejudicium generari , provocationes et appellationes supponentes apostolorum petitiones et protestationes hujusmodi ex causis predictis ab eodem patre nostro pro se ipso et nobis capitulo suo ac aliis subditis suis ad sanctam sedem apostolicam interpositas atque factas , justas et

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legitimas merito reputantes , omnes easdem nomine ecclesie nostre Lincoln' et nostro unanimiter approbamus , ratas habemus , innovamus et denuo verbo ad verbum , sensu ad sensum , pro nobis et patre nostro predicto ad sanctam sedem apostolicam in hiis scriptis coram vobis omnibus testibus ad hoc vocatis specialiter et rogatis solempniter et puplice interponimus ut est dictum , et ex omnibus et singulis causis predictis per dominum Johannem de Stokton' ecclesie nostre vicarium quem os nostrum fecimus committimus et facimus ad predictam expressius et appellamus et etiam provocamus suppositionem , apostolorum petitionem et protestationem memoratas pro nobis et nostris ac nobis adherentibus quantum ad personas et res ex nunc iterum facientes et iterantes expresse . In cujus rei testimonium commune sigillum capituli nostri presentibus est appensum Actum et datum in capitulo nostro Lincoln' die Mercurii proxime post festum Sancti Ambrosii episcopi , anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo . Hiis testibus , Radulpho de Estria , Willelmo de Swynesheved' , Roberto de Insula , Rogero de Leghton' , Bartholomeo de Donham , Thoma de Newport' , Ada de Langeton' et Waltero Norman de Lincoln' vicariis ecclesie Lincoln' , Willelmo de Lenna , Richardo de Assheby , Waltero de Kaystthorp' de choro ecclesie Lincoln' predictae , Rogero de Neuton' et Thoma de Carleton' presbiteris , Willelmo de Roppelee , Rogero de Gretton' , presentibus etiam aliis testibus vocatis specialiter et rogatis.

LITTERA TESTIMONIALIS. Letters patent of the bishop, quoting a letter from the register of Bishop Gravesend's official in which he testified to the fact that Thomas Basset of Welham and Margery his wife had been contracted to one another before Margery had been claimed in marriage by Martin de Lada, and that she was therefore in fact the wife of Thomas Basset. Sutton caused his seal to be put upon this letter at Stow Park, April 16, 1291.

Universis ad quorum noticiam pervenerit scriptum presens , Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus salutem in domino sempiternam . Noverit universitas vestra quod nos registrum¹ proximi predecessoris nostri zelo veritatis et justicie facientes diligencius indagari , sic inter cetera contineri comparimus in eodem : — In nomine patris et filii etc . Auditis et diligenter intellectis meritis cause divorcii mote inter Martinum de Lada ex parte una et Thomam Basset de Welleham et Margeriam uxorem suam ex altera , quia sufficienter constat tam per confessionem dictorum Thome et Marjerie quam per testes et eorum dicta matrimonium contractum fuisse inter eosdem Thomam et Margeriam priusquam inter ipsam et prefatum Martinum de facto esset contractum , nos domini Lincoln' officialis habito virorum prudentium consilio

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sentenciam divorcii inter predictos Martinum et Margeriam quatinus de facto processit in scriptis proferimus , et prefatum Thomam predictae Marjerie in virum et eam eidem in uxorem finaliter et diffinitive adjudicamus . — In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum . Datum apud Parcum Stowe XVII kalendas Maii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo.

COMMISSIO. Commission to the master of Nun Coton (Cotum) and to Simon rector of Aylesby (Alesby) to discharge the executors of Richard of Melton in Barton. Stow Park, April 16, 1291.

OBEDIENCIA MAGISTRI BENEDICTI DE HALUM OFFICIALIS ARCHIDIACONI LINCOLN'. Note that the oath of canonical obedience was taken by Master Benedict of Halam , alias de Suwell' , as official of William de Estiniaco (Estanayco) Archdeacon of Lincoln, at Nettleham, on April 18, 1291, a little before compline.

COMMISSIO. Commission to Master Walter of Wootton (Wutton'), canon of Lincoln, to wind up the accounts of the archdeaconry of Buckingham during the time of the vacancy which had followed the death of Percival (de Lavagna). Nettleham, April 23, 1291.

[folio 23]

COMMISSIO. Commission to the prior of Newnham (Neuham) near Bedford, to Master Walter of Wootton (Wutton') and to Ralph rector of the church of Maldon, to discharge the executors of Robert of Wootton lord of Marston Moretaine (Merston'), Constance de Mortain (Morteyn') his wife, and Sir Nicholas of Weston, knight. Nettleham, April 23, 1291.

PRO TEMPLARIIS. To all the archdeacons and their officials and to the collectors of the King's tenths in the diocese, telling them to suspend the collection of tenths from the Templars and their appropriated churches until further notice. [Nettleham], April 25, 1291.

Septimo kalendas Maii anno undecimo exivit littera sequens : — O. etc , universis archidiaconis vel eorum officialibus necnon collectoribus decime domino regi concessae salutem , etc . Magistro et fratribus milicie Templi in hiis in quibus possumus deferre volentes , vobis mandamus quatinus omnimodis coercicionibus in dictos magistrum et fratres et ecclesias eis appropriatas pro decima supradicta suspendeatis omnino , donec super hoc a nobis aliud habueritis in mandatis . Datum , etc .

LITTERA TESTIMONIALIS. Letters patent announcing that the bishop had appointed Stephen of Cainham on April 9, 1285, to be

prior of Charley in succession to John of Bawtry who had resigned, and that he had done this because three months had elapsed without any attempt at an election in the priory. Nettleham, April 25, 1291.

Universis pateat per presentes quod vacante prioratu de Charle per cessionem fratris Johannis de Bautre ultimi prioris ejusdem canonice factam et admissam , potestateque providendi dicte domui de priore pro eo quod ipsius loci canonici infra tres menses a tempore dicte cessionis eis notificate ad electionem faciendam procedere temere neglexerunt , ad nos Oliverum permissione divina Lincoln' episcopum legitime devoluta , nos V idus Aprilis anno domini M. CC. octogesimo quinto fratrem Stephanum de Cayham canonicum dicti loci jure ad nos devoluto auctoritate pontificale ibidem prefecimus in priorem . Et ut premissa in dubium nullatenus revocentur , sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum . Datum apud Nettleham VII kalendas Maii , anno , etc . nonagesimo primo.

COMMISSIO. Commission to Master William of Langworth (Langwath') and Master Jordan of Ingham to discharge Laurence of Holbeach (Holbech) and John of Whaplode (Whappelade) and their fellow-executors of the will of Sir Edmund of Whaplode, knight. Lincoln, April 23, 1291.

COMMISSIO. Commission to Master Jordan of Ingham and Master Robert of Retford (Retteford') rector of the mediety of Claypole (Claypol') to discharge John of Burford (Bereford') living in Claypole and Richard of Bennington (Bynigton'), executors of the will of Simon of Burford in Claypole. Lincoln, April 23, 1291.

ADQUIETANCIA. Letters patent quitclaiming Walter Bridge of Lincoln of a debt of sixty shillings owed to the bishop. Nettleham, April 26, 1291.

Pateat universis per presentes quod nos O. etc , Walterum de Ponte de Lincoln' de illis sexaginta solidis per ministros nostros petitis ab eodem quietum dimittentes , volumus quod obligatio sua super hoc nobis facta quandocumque apparuerit vacua sit penitus et inanis . In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum . Datum apud Nettleham die Jovis in septimana pasche , anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo.

COMMISSIO. Commission to Master William of Langworth (Langewath') and Master Jordan of Ingham to discharge Walter of Thornhaugh (Thornehag') who lived in the Bail at Lincoln and Robert West of Lissington (Lissigton'), executors of the will of Ralph of Lissington who had also lived in the Bail. [Lincoln], April 26, 1291.

COMMISSIO. Commission to Master Walter of Malling and Master William of Langworth (Langewath') to discharge Philip of Wirksworth (Wyrkeswrth') and his fellow-executors of the will of John nephew of Sir John of Widdington (Wydington'). Lincoln, April 26, 1291.

COMMISSIO. Commission to Master William of Langworth (Langewath') and to Robert of Burton, sequestrator, to discharge the executors of the wills of Peter Temple (de Templo) of Denton, William Stedman of Grantham (Graham) and Cecily widow of John son of John of Grantham. Nettleham, April 25, 1291.

COMMISSIO. Commission to the treasurer (Richard of Horton) and to Master William of Langworth (Langewath') to discharge William Wygeyn' and his fellow-executors of the will of Gerard Delisle (de Insula). Nettleham, April 26.

COMMISSIO. Commission to the official of the Archdeacon of Leicester to receive the resignation of Stephen of Cainham (Cayham) prior of Charley (Charlee) and to report to the bishop. The patrons of the house were to be told that it was not vacant until after the resignation had been received. Stow Park, May 4, 1291.

[*folio 23^v*]

COMMISSIO. Commission to the Archdeacon of Oxford and his official to settle the dispute over the defects in the church and rectory at Beckley. This dispute had arisen between Master Philip rector of Hedsor and now rector of Beckley, on the one hand, and Master Richard of Sotwell, lately rector of Beckley and now rector of Frodingham, on the other. Stow Park, May 4, 1291.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilectis in Christo filiis¹ archidiacono Oxon' et ejus¹ officiali salutem , graciam et benedictionem . In causa seu negotio super defectus cancelli et domorum rectorie ecclesie de Becklee et aliorum quorum reparatio ad magistrum Ricardum de Sohtwelle nuper rectorem ejusdem nunc rectorem ecclesie de Frothingham de jure seu consuetudine spectare dinoscatur , inter magistrum Philippum rectorem ecclesie de Hedeshovere nunc rectorem dicte ecclesie de Becklee ex parte una , et dictum magistrum Ricardum ex altera moto , preter id quod jure ordinarii vobis competit in hoc casu , vobis conjunctim et divisim vices nostras cum canonice coercionis potestate committimus per presentes . Valete . Datum apud Parcum Stowe , quarto nonas Maii , anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo et pontificatus nostri undecimo.

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LITTERA TESTIMONIALIS DE UXORATIONE. Testimonial to the validity of the marriage between Robert le Bogheman and Margery, daughter of Richard Cauz of Corringham. Robert had recently died at Framingham in Norfolk and Margery wanted to claim her dower. Stow Park, May 6, 1291.

Universis ad quos presentes littere pervenerint , Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus salutem in omnium salvatore . Accedens ad nos Margeria filia Ricardi Cauz de Coringham nostre diocesis , nobis exposuit quod quidam Robertus le Bogheman vir suus diem suum extremum apud Framingham in partibus Northfolch' nuper clausit , post cujus mortem se in partibus predictis tam ratione dotis quam aliis ex causis multa posse consequi assererat , si se ipsius Roberti uxorem fuisse , dotere posset partibus in eisdem , petens humiliter sibi in hac parte litteris nostris testimonialibus subveniri . Pium igitur reputantes veritati testimonium perhibere , precipue cum ex ipsius defectu potuit alicui prejudicium generari , super conjunctione matrimoniali dictorum Roberti et Margerie per viros fidedignos et juratos ipsorum noticiam plenius optinentes , inquisitionem fieri fecimus diligentem , per quam accepimus evidenter quod prefatus Ricardus Margerie prescripte duodecim annis et amplius elapsis in facie ecclesie apud Coringham puplice et solempniter extitit matrimonialiter copulatus , et postea per plures annos ut uxori cohabitavit eidem . In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum . Datum apud Parcum Stowe II nonas Maii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo.

COMMISSIO. Commission to Master Thomas de Perariis and Master William of Langworth (Langewath') to discharge Sir William de Cressy and William de Risthorp', executors of the will of Lady Sybil de Cressy, and to discharge also Robert of Bratoft (Braytoft') and his fellow-executors of the will of Henry of Bratoft. Stow Park, May 5, 1291.

COMMISSIO IN CAUSA COMITIS CORNUBIE. Commission to Master Richard of S. Frideswide, Archdeacon of Buckingham, or to the Archdeacon of Oxford, to represent the bishop in the dispute between Edmund Earl of Cornwall and Margaret de Clare his wife. (Bishop Sutton, together with the bishops of Winchester and Salisbury, had been appointed papal judge-delegate to deal with this case.) The commission formerly made to Master Henry of Nassington, the bishop's official, was revoked. Stow Park, May 8, 1291.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus una cum reverendis patribus dominis Wynton' et Sarr' episcopis iudex a sede apostolica delegatus magistro Ricardo de Sancta Fredeswyda archidiacono Buck' in ecclesia nostra Lincoln' salutem in domino sempiternam. In omnibus causis et negotiis appellationum motis auctoritate sedis

apostolice inter nobilem virum dominum Edmundum comitem Cornubie partem ut dicitur appellantem ex parte una ac nobilem mulierem Margaretam natam quondam Ricardi comitis Glovernie partem ut pretenditur appellatam ex altera , et dominis Wynton' et Sarr' episcopis memoratis , ac nobis a predicta sede commissis , vobis vices nostras non obstante aliqua commissione magistro Henrico de Nassington' canonico Lincoln' officiali nostro inter dictos partes per nos prius facta , quam tenore presentium certis ex causis revocamus ad presens , cum cohercionis canonice potestate committimus per presentes , donec commissionem hujusmodi duxerimus revocandam . Datum apud Parcum Stowe , VIII idus Maii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo . Item eisdem die anno et loco sub eisdem verbis scriptum fuit Archidiacono Oxon' ut si unus intendere non valeret , alter negotium exequiretur.

LITTERA INHIBITORIA ARCHIDIACONIS PRO MANDATO ARCHIEPISCOPI. To all the archdeacons of the diocese or their officials, explaining that an appeal has gone to the pope against the action taken by the official of Canterbury in the matter of the churches of Colsterworth and Quinton, and telling them to obey no mandate from the Archbishop or the said official in this matter without first consulting the bishop. Stow Park, May 8, 1291.

Oliverus , etc , universis archidiaconis , etc , vel eorum officialibus , etc . Cum ob quoddam mandatum injuriosum nobis et jurisdictioni nostre diocesane et ecclesie Lincoln' ac vobis archidiaconis predictis prejudiciale valde per venerabilem virum dominum¹ officialem curie Cant'¹ officiali nostro nuper directum de abbatibus de Brunne et de Nuttele coram ipso officiale Cant' ad certos diem et locum citandis ad respondendum ipso vel commissario suo de custodia sequestri per ipsum interpositi ut pretendit in fructibus et obventionibus ecclesiarum de Quenton' et de Colstwrth' nostre diocesis perceptis pro tempore quo lites inter presentatos ad easdem ecclesias ex parte una et nos ex altera in curia Cant' pendebant , quam quidem sequestri custodiam officialis Cant' dictis abbatibus se asseruit commisisse , necnon ad compotum reddendum sibi et satisfaciendum plenarie de eisdem , tam nos quam officialis noster predictus ad sanctam sedem apostolicam postquam dictum mandatum injustum ad nostram noticiam pervenit , ab eodem officiale Cant' et coram eo legitime appellandum duxerimus et etiam provocandum , ac idem officialis noster de appellatione tam nostra quam sua predictis satis confidens prout potuit , hujusmodi mandatum injuriosum officialis Cant' non fuerit sicut [*folio 24*] nec debuit executus . Vobis omnibus et singulis nos et officialem nostrum sicut premittitur ad sanctam sedem appellasse tenore presentium notificantes , vobis et per vos decanis et aliis vobis subditis suademus

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et mandamus quatinus si venerabilis pater dominus¹ Cant' archiepiscopus aut officialis suus predictus quivis alius eorundem aut alterius ipsorum auctoritate vel mandato contra officialem nostrum predictum tanquam contra contumacem vel inobedientem eis cum in veritate talis non fuerit , aut contra nos seu quemvis nobis adherentem in hac parte spretis appellationibus premissis executionem seu mandatum quodcumque vobis vel alicui vestrum seu quicumque vestrum subdito , quod tante prudencie viros in apostolice sedis contemptum vix credimus esse scituros , hac de causa duxerit vel duxerint demandandum , attendentes quod juxta sanam juris doctrinam si saniori ducti consilio appellationi ad sanctam sedem apostolicam interposite magis quam denunciationi ab archiepiscopo ut verbis juris utamur et per consequens ab officiale suo vel alio sua auctoritate facte defertis merito debetis inculpabiles judicari , ob dicte sedis apostolice reverenciam et nostram supersedeatis quousque de forma executionis et mandati hujusmodi nos consulueritis et postea plene deliberaveritis quid tutius et justius agendum fuerit in hac parte . Valet . Datum apud Parcum Stowe , VIII idus Maii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo et pontificatus nostri XI.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy, and for receiving the subdiaconate and diaconate without such a dispensation, to Richard of Fawsley (Fallesleya), deacon. Stow Park, May 10, 1291.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS. To the dean of Wraggöe, telling him to excommunicate all those who had, at Lissington, maliciously infringed rights and liberties belonging to the hospital of S. Giles outside Lincoln. Stow Park, May 11, 1291.

Oliverus , etc , decano de Wraggehou , etc . Cum omnes ecclesias suo jure privantes et earundem libertates per maliciam et contra justiciam infringere vel perturbare etiam contententes , quod secundum sacrum consilium non solum de generalibus libertatibus universalis ecclesie , verum etiam de specialibus tam temporalibus quam spiritualibus ecclesie cujuscumque intelligendum existit , sint ipso facto sententia majoris excommunicationis sanctorum patrum auctoritate ligati , ac nonnulli inter rem sacram seu spiritualem et rem prophanam nullatenus distinguentes jura et libertates pure elemosine hospitalis Sancti Egidii extra Lincoln' notorie dependentis apud Lissington' ut dicitur temere infregerint et infringant ac per maliciam injuste turbare presumpserint et perturbent , in libertatis ecclesiastice prejudicium , animarum suarum grande periculum et plurimorum perniciosum exemplum , nos hujusmodi transgressores ut si forte emendare se velint et adicere ut desistant et aliis tollatur audacia similia perpetrandi ,

¹ Blank in MS.

perfecto odio persequi cupientes , vobis firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus dictam excommunicationis sententiam in omnes presumptores et libertatum ecclesiasticarum violatores predictos in duabus vel tribus ecclesiis decanatus vestri de quibus per custodem diete hospitalis fueritis requisiti , tribus diebus dominicis et festivis intra missarum solemnia , canonica monitione premissa , quod hujusmodi malefactores vere peniteant de presumptis et a similibus caveant in futurum , pulsatis campanis , candelis accensis , per vos vel alios faciatis in genere solempniter publicari . Datum apud Parcum Stowe V idus Maii , anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo.

PRO TEMPLARIIS QUANTUM AD ECCLESIAM DE GOLKESBY. To the dean of Gartree, telling him to raise the interdict which he had imposed on the church of Goulceby on account of payments due to William de la Gare Archdeacon of Lincoln. The Templars of Willoughton, who had appropriated the church, had complained of this sequestration to the bishop. Stow Park, May 13, 1291.

O. etc , decano de Geyrtr' salutem , etc . Querelam dilecti in Christo filii¹ preceptoris de Wilghton' nuper recepimus continentem quod licet universis et singulis visitatoribus ecclesiarum ordinario jure procuracionem ratione visitationis in pecunia numerata exigere vel etiam volente recipere sub gravis pene adjectione expressius inhibeat , vos tamen ratione ecclesie de Golkesby¹ magistro et fratribus milicie templi appropriate ad opus quondam Willelmi de Gare archidiaconi Lincoln' occasione visitationis in dicta ecclesia quasi subito sine aliqua vocatione seu premunitione eorum quorum intererat non personaliter sed per duos clericos ejusdem archidiaconi hoc anno facte , a dicto preceptore nolente et prorsus invito pecuniam exigere presumpsistis et presumitis , dictam ecclesiam pretextu hujusmodi pecunie indebite non solute de facto interdicentes injuste , super quo prefatus preceptor remedium congruum per nos adhiberi instancius postulavit . Cum igitur ea que contra sacras constitutiones in hac parte illicite attemptantur haberi debeant pro infectis , vobis mandamus quatinus si prefatam ecclesiam interdicto supposueritis ex causa pretacta , illud sine more dispendio cautius relaxetis , imposterum taliter vos gerentes quod de facto vestro ad nos clamor iterum non ascendit . Datum apud Parcum Stowe IIII idus Maii pontificatus nostri anno XI.

PRO CIGNIS ABBATIS DE NEUHUS. To the dean of Yarborough, ordering him to warn, and if this proved ineffective to excommunicate, all those who had stolen swans (some of them nesting) and swans' eggs belonging to the abbot and convent of Newhouse. Stow Park, May 12, 1291.

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O. etc , decano de Jordeburg' salutem , etc . Cum ecclesia criminosos et alios precipue religiosiis et viris ecclesiasticis dampnum dantes quorum peccata mortalia a deo se separant usque ad satisfactionem et emendationem condignam debita animadversione persequi teneatur , nonnullique iniquitatis filii persone quorum et nomina ut dicitur ignorantur cignos dilectorum in Christo filiorum¹ abbatis et conventus monasterii de Neuhus in locis et aquis suis propriis seu ad ipsos et monasterium suum ratione communicationis cum aliis spectantibus natantes seu immorantes tam steriles quam ova foventes una cum ipsis ovis nuper [folio 24^v] clam surripuerint , temere abegerint et per maliciam nequiter amoverint in animarum suarum grande periculum , dictorum religiosorum ac monasterii sui prejudicium non modicum et gravamen , nos hujusmodi malefactores eo acrius censura ecclesiastica persequi cupientes , quo hujusmodi peccatum suum aliis perniciosum cederet in exemplum et animarum suarum interitum continuaret si sub silencio contingeret pertransiri , vobis mandamus firmiter injungentes quatinus in singulis ecclesiis decanatus vestri tribus diebus dominicis intra missarum solempnia post lectum evangelium edictum monitorium palam faciatis proponi , quod omnes transgressores predicti cum suis auctoribus , fautoribus et consiliariis in crimine supradicto infra quindenam a tempore noticie monitionis hujusmodi facte de dicto commisso vere peniteant et satisfacere non omittant . Alioquin ipsos aliis tribus diebus dominicis in locis et hora pretactis , pulsatis campanis , candelis accensis , in genere solempniter excommunicetis et excommunicari publice faciatis quousque prestita satisfactione deo reconciliati beneficium absolutionis meruerint optinere . Datum apud Parcum Stowe IIII idus Maii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo.

COMMISSIO. Commission to the Archdeacon of Buckingham to try the case between Richard of Burford (Bereford'), clerk, presented to the church of Shenley (Shenle) by the King, and John of Wyddial (Wydhull') the actual incumbent. Definitive sentence was reserved to the bishop. Stow Park, May 14, 1291.

PENITENCIA JOHANNIS DE CRAVEN. Announcement of the public penance imposed by Ralph of Tofts, the bishop's penitentiary, upon John of Craven, servant of the nuns of Stainfield, for hitting a certain woman upon the head with a stick in the churchyard at Stainfield. John was to go in three penitential processions from the churchyard gate to the altar of Stainfield church on three Sundays, offering a twopenny candle on each occasion. He was also given a private penance. Stow Park, May 14, 1291.

II idus Maii anno XI apud Parcum Stowe injuncta fuit per fratrem Radulphum de Toftes penitenciarium episcopi Johanni de

¹ Blank in MS.

Craven servienti domus monialium de Steynfeld' penitencia que infra sequitur pro eo quod quamdam mulierem in cimiterio loci predicti cum virga in capite usque ad modicam sanguinis effusionem percussit , videlicet tribus diebus dominicis ante missam discalciatus , discooperto capite , a porta cimiterii usque ad altare ubi celebratur missa parochianis , et singulis diebus eisdem singulas candelas precii duorum denariorum in manus deferens illas offeret super altare predictum , ibidem quamdiu durarent attendende¹ . Injuncta etiam sibi alia penitencia in foro penitenciali privata.

COMMISSIO. Commission to Master William of Langworth (Langewath') and to Robert of Burton, sequestrator, to discharge Richard vicar of Marton and his fellow-executors of the will of Gerard rector of Kettlethorpe (Ketelesthorp'). Stow Park, May 15, 1291.

CONTRA GILBERTUM DE PINCEBEK'. Note that on May 17, 1291, at Stow Park, the bishop received a letter from the dean of Holland (given in full) in which the dean asked that disciplinary action might be taken against Gilbert of Pinchbeck, who was disregarding a sentence of excommunication pronounced against him because he had refused to appear before the said dean to give an account of his actions as executor of the will of Joan of Caldbeck in Surfleet. The bishop therefore wrote to all the parish clergy in the deanery of Holland explaining that Gilbert was already under two sentences of excommunication, one for refusing to obey the ruling of the Court of the Arches in a lawsuit which he had brought against the bishop, and the other for refusing to give an account of his actions as Joan of Caldbeck's executor. The said clergy were to publish both these sentences with proper solemnity in all the churches of Holland, and to report back to the bishop. Stow Park, May 17, 1291.

Memorandum quod die Jovis proxime post dominicam qua cantatur 'Jubilare' , videlicet XVI kalendas Junii anno XI apud Parcum Stowe exhibita episcopo quadam littera decani Hoyland' sub hac forma : — Reverendo in Christo patri domino O. dei gracia Lincoln' episcopo , devotus suus filius et humilis Thomas decanus Hoyland' salutem cum omni reverencia , obediencia pariter et honore tanto patri debitis . Quia dum vices magistri Roberti de Clisseby quondam principalis sequestratoris vestri in Hoyland' gerens Gilbertum filium Gilberti de Pyncebeck' executorem testamenti Johanne de Caldebeck' in Surflet' pro eo quod ad reddendum rationem administrationis sue super executione ipsius testamenti coram me legitime vocatus reddere contemptibiliter et manifeste

¹ *Sic.* The structure of this sentence is peculiar and a verb seems to be missing. *Attendendus* seems a probable reading for *attendende*. The word, however, might refer to the candles.

contradixit , multiplices contumacias coram me contrahendo , in scriptis excommunicavi iusticia exigente , sicut per processum inde habitum quem dominationi vestre per presencium mitto portitorem liquere poterit evidenter , nec hactenus de aliqua absolutione mihi constitit inde optenta , vestre reverende paternitati humili prece duxi supplicandum quatinus super hec tam circa statum ipsius Gilberti reformandum quam etiam circa rationem administrationis sue super executione dicti testamenti reddendam , remedium aliquod velitis adhibere si placet oportunum . Valeant vobis salus et honor et mihi reverenda paternitas per tempora longa . Datum apud Multon' idibus Maii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo . — Et ejusdem littere tenore perspecto , scriptum fuit universis rectoribus , vicariis et capellanis parochialibus decanatus Hoyland' sub hac forma : — O. etc , universis rectoribus , vicariis et capellanis in decanatu Hoyland' residentibus salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Quia Gilbertus filius Gilberti de Pyncebeck' preter sententiam majoris excommunicationis qua per discretum virum¹ decanum de Arcubus London' seu ad mandatum ejusdem pro eo quod idem Gilbertus pronunciationi seu diffinitioni dicti decani in quadam causa appellationis inter eundem Gilbertum partem appellantem ex parte una et nos partem appellatam ex altera ad curiam Cant' legitime devoluta parere contempsit dudum fuerat et adhuc innodatus existit , tam auctoritate nostra pro manifesta offensa consimili sententia dicto decano prefatum G . ad examen nostrum non obstante appellatione sua ad curiam Cant' a nobis ut suggesserat prius interposita remittente per decretum , quam per decanum Hoyland' pro contumacia sua manifesta in negotio testamentario super redditione ratiocinii administrationis sue in bonis testamenti quondam Johanne de Caldebeck' in Surflet' cujus est executor moto contracta , majoris excommunicationis vincula jampridem multo tempore decurso fuit et adhuc est ligatus sicut per litteras dicti decani Hoyland' quantum ad sententiam per ipsum latam nobis transmissas constare videtur , quas quidem sententias non sine clavium ecclesie contemptu et suspicione heretice pravitatis hactenus parvipendet animo indurato , nos de [*folio 25*] salute anime memorati Gilberti si forsitan adicere velit et resurgat plusquam ipse solliciti existentes , vobis in virtute obediencie firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus eundem Gilbertum in singulis ecclesiis decanatus Hoyland' singulis diebus dominicis et festivis intra missarum solempnia , pulsatis campanis , candelis accensis , sic excommunicatum esse tam auctoritate nostra quam per dictum decanum Hoyland' ex causis predictis , sententia insuper prefati decani de Arcubus in ipsum lata ut predicatur in sua firmitate durante , puplice et solempniter denunciatis , quousque absolutionis beneficium in forma juris meruerit optinere . In ecclesiis predictis statim post

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denunciationes pretactas palam inhibentes , ne quis cum eodem loquendo , edendo , bibendo , orando , aut quovis alio modo nisi in casibus a jure concessis sub pena excommunicationis majoris communicare presumat . Et si quos in contrarium venire temere compareritis in premissis , ipsos per decanum loci procuretis debita animadversione puniri . Qualiter autem hoc mandatum nostrum fueritis executi , nos litteris patentibus harum seriem continentibus et per aliquem seu aliquos nomine omnium vestrum de conscia vestra confectis certificetis tempore oportuno . Datum apud Parcum Stowe XVI kalendas Junii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Hugh of Nottingham (Nottingham') subdeacon, rector of Walton, to be ordained to the diaconate and priesthood by any Catholic bishop, provided that he made proof of having done so within a year of his institution, which had taken place on December 23, 1290. Stow Park, May 17, 1291.

PRO TESTAMENTO EPISCOPI. Note that on May 18, 1291, at Stow Park, the bishop produced his will which he had caused to be drawn up on the previous day. After he had read part of it, he caused William of Stockton to fasten it up and Master Jocelyn of Kirmington, keeper of the episcopal seals, to append the great seal and to put the small seal on the back. The following acted as witnesses : — Master Henry of Nassington the bishop's official, Master Walter of Wootton, Master Jocelyn of Kirmington and William of Stockton, canons of Lincoln, Robert of Thorpe, Roger of Sixhills, Robert of Kibworth, William of Anlaby and John de Scalleby, chaplains, John of Ferriby and Hugh of Harwood, clerks, Richard of Sutton, John of Bayton, Walter de Neville, Richard Taylor and Richard of Pickworth, knights, Ralph of Tofts, a Franciscan, and others.

XV kalendas Junii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo in clauastro manerii de Parco Stowe dominus O. Lincoln' episcopus asseruit se die precedente saltem XVI kalendas Junii testamentum suum condidisse sub forma in quadam scriptura ibidem per ipsum ostensa et recitata pro parte , mandans statim magistro Gocelino de Kirmington' custodiam sigilli sui tunc habenti ut eidem scripture quam per dominum Willelmum de Stokton' canonicum Lincoln' protinus claudi fecit ipsius episcopi signum apponeret , qui quidem magister Gocelinus statim scripture predice magnum sigillum ipsius episcopi appendit et parvum sigillum in dorso apposuit . Acta sunt hec XV kalendas Junii anno et loco predictis , presentibus magistris Henrico de Nassington' officiale episcopi , Waltero de Wutton' , Gocelino , et Willelmo de Stokton' predictis canonicis Lincoln' , dominis Roberto de Thorp' , Rogero de Sixill' , Roberto de Kibbewrth' , Willelmo de Anlauby et Johanne de Scalleby capellanis , Johanne de Feriby et Hugone de Harwud' clericis ,

Ricardo de Sutton' , Johanne de Bayton' , Waltero de Nevill' , Ricardo Cissore , Ricardo de Pikkewrth' armigeris , et aliis . Item , presens fuit frater Radulphus de Toftes de ordine minorum , quos omnes dictus episcopus rogavit ut premissorum testes forent pro loco et tempore oportunis .

Memoranda anni XIIⁱ

QUARTODECIMO KALENDAS JUNII , VIDELICET DIE SANCTI DUNSTANI , ANNO DOMINI M. CC. NONAGESIMO PRIMO , INCIPIT ANNUS DOMINI OLIVERI EPISCOPI LINCOLN' DUODECIMUS.

INDULGENCIA. Grant of twenty days' indulgence to all confessed and contrite persons who should say a Pater and an Ave for the soul of Master William de la Gare, late Archdeacon of Lincoln, whose body is buried in the prebendal church of Corringham (Coringham). Owston, June 20, 1291.

HEYNINGES. To the prioress and convent of Heynings, giving permission for the vicar of Upton to take charge of their affairs while the master of the house, Master Thomas de Perariis canon of Lincoln, was unavoidably burdened with other business. Corringham, June 20, 1291.

HAXEY. Note that when a dispute arose between Roger vicar of Haxey on the one hand and Thomas of Burnham and some other parishioners on the other, about the appointment of a holy-water-bearer, the two parties submitted their quarrel to the bishop who appointed Henry of Nassington, Jocelyn of Kirmington and Walter of Wootton as his commissaries. These ordained that the appointment should be made by the vicar, that poor clerks born in the parish should have preference, that the rector's rights were not to be prejudiced and that the Archdeacon of Stow should decide whether the appointed clerk should spend his spare time in the schools or in the service of the church. Haxey, June 21, 1291.

Memorandum quod inter Rogerum vicarium ecclesie de Haxay ex parte una et Thomam de Brunham et alios comparochianos suos parochie de Haxay predicte ex altera super deputatione aquebajuli in parochia de Haxay , utraque parte id ad se spectare debere in consuetudine asserente , contentio suborta fuisset , demum ob eventus litis dubios evitandos idem vicarius per se , dictique parochiani per se , ordinationi , decreto , dicto seu laudo venerabilis patris domini O. dei gracia Lincoln' episcopi seu clericorum suorum de plano se totaliter submiserunt , promittentes

se hinc inde ratum habituros et firmum quicquid idem pater suive clerici scilicet nos Henricus de Nassington' officialis , Gocelinus de Kirmington' et Walterus de Wutton' tunc presentes super hoc ordinarent , dicerent , decernerent seu laudarent . Prefato igitur vicario ac Thoma de Brunham et aliis parochianis ecclesie predicte coram nobis Henrico , Gocelino et Waltero predictis clericis dicti patris XII kalendas Junii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo in parochiali ecclesia de Haxay personaliter constitutis et nostram ordinationem , dictum , decretum sue laudem in premissis postulanti-bus cum effectu , nos auditis hiis que utraque pars predicta tam super jure quam possessione et consuetudine observata , pro se proposuit in hac parte , attendentes juxta canonicas sanctiones dispositionem ministrorum ecclesiasticorum inter quos non immerito aquebajulus est censendus ad personas laicas minime pertinere debere , decrevimus aquebajulum memoratum in ecclesia de Haxay predicta non per parochianos predictos set per loci vicarium ipsiusque successores futuris debere temporibus deputari , si tamen debeat scholas exercere diebus festivis exceptis vel continue ecclesie deservire , arbitrio domini¹ archidiaconi loci qui magis decanatus loci consuetudinis in hoc casu potest habere noticiam relinquentes . Hoc semper attento , quod pauperes clerici de dicta parochia oriundi dum tamen sint ydonei extraneis preferantur , juri rectoris ecclesie predicte si quod vindicare voluerit in hoc casu per hoc decretum nostrum prejudicare nullatenus intendentes.

COMMISSIO. Commission to the dean of Yarborough and to Master Benedict vicar of Cadney (Cadeneya) to discharge William vicar of Barton and his fellow-executors of the will of Alice wife of Simon of Grafham in Barton. Thornholm, May 28, 1291.

PRO CARTA DE ASFORDBY. Note of a letter to the subdean and chapter of Lincoln telling them to give the King's charter concerning the manor of Asfordby to Philip of Swayfield (Swafeld'), clerk, who was to take it to the seneschal of Newark castle. June 1, 1291.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS. Note of a sentence of general ex-communication, in the same form as that used on behalf of the Abbot of Newhouse,² to be published by the dean of Yarborough against all those who had maliciously killed swans belonging to Robert de Charneus of Stallingborough (Stalingburgh'). The swans had lived at Keelby (Keleby). Thornholm, May 28, 1291.

LITTERA TESTIMONIALIS DE CONSANGUINITATE. Testimonial to the fact that Richard son of Mariot of Little Limber was born in lawful wedlock, and that Mariot was the sister of Herbert of Limber.

¹ Blank in MS.

² See above, pp. 99-100.

The purpose of this testimonial was to enable Richard to claim his uncle's inheritance. Newhouse, June 2, 1291.

Universis , etc , Oliverus , etc . Accedens ad nos Ricardus filius Mariote de parva Linberg' nostre diocesis nobis exposuit quod quidam Herbertus de Linberg' civis Mullaven' ipsius Ricardi avunculus in civitate Mullaven' diem ultimum suum clausit , ex cuius testamento multa in partibus Mullaven' se posse consequi asserebat , si consanguinitate inter eos existente fidem facere posset partibus in eisdem , petens humiliter sibi in hac parte litteris nostris testimonialibus subveniri . Pium igitur reputantes veritati testimonium perhibere , precipue cum ex ipsius defectu poterit alicui prejudicium generari , universitati vestre notum facimus per presentes , quod facta inquisitione diligenti per viros fidedignos et juratos super consanguinitate predicta , per inquisitionem hujusmodi est acceptum quod idem Ricardus de Mariota prefata Herberti germana in legitimo extitit matrimonio procreatus . In cuius rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum . Datum apud Neuhus IIII nonas Junii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo.

INDULGENCIA PRO QUESTU. To all the inhabitants of the diocese, asking them to give alms liberally to the leper-hospital of S. Mary Magdalen outside Grimsby, and promising ten days' indulgence to all those (including people from other dioceses whose bishops approve) who make contributions. Humberstone, June 4, 1291.

Oliverus , etc , universis subditis nostris per nostram diocesem constitutis salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Supreme inopie miserabilium pauperum Christi leprosorum Sancte Marie Magdalene extra Grimesby, quam in abjectione hominum et carnis afflictione patiuntur pio compatiētes affectu , universitatem vestram monemus et hortamur in domino quatinus miseriam dictorum pauperum temporaliter oppressorum alicujusmodi elemosine largitione eisdem per veros nuncios suos cum ad vos declinaverint aliquid conferendo , seu alias ipsis transmittendo , relevare curetis intuitu pietatis . Et ad hujusmodi caritatis opus manus meritorias promptius extendatis , vobis omnibus ad sustentationem dictorum infirmorum quicquam de bonis vobis a deo collatis pie conferentibus , vere penitentibus et confessis , ac aliis in statu consimili existentibus quorum diocesani hanc nostram indulgenciam ratam habuerint , de dei omnipotentis misericordia , gloriose virginis Marie , sanctissimi confessoris beati Hugonis ac omnium sanctorum meritis confi — [folio 26] — dentes , decem dies de injuncta vobis et illis penitencia misericorditer relaxamus . Datum apud Humberstayn' II nonas Junii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS. To the dean of Grimsby, telling him to warn and if necessary excommunicate all those who were trying to prevent the churches of Grimsby from enjoying legacies left to them, or were otherwise infringing ecclesiastical rights. Louth, June 8, 1291.

Oliverus , etc , decano de Grimesby , etc . Cum testamenta defunctorum coram ordinariis probata et approbata temere impediētes seu impediiri procurantes injuste , quominus testimonium ultime voluntatis procedant in hiis que de jure vel consuetudine possunt legari , sacri concilii auctoritate majoris excommunicationis sententia ligati existant , omnes etiam auferentes ecclesiis sua jura sive in spiritualibus sive in temporalibus consimili sententia sint involuti , nonnullique de villa de Grimesby diversa legata annua de edificiis et domibus que etiam secundum ipsius loci consuetudinem approbatam legari possunt perpetua prestanda ecclesiis de Grimesby jampridem relicta solvi contra justiciam impediānt seu impedimentum opponi procurent , ac quidam hujusmodi legata pro tempore prius prestita presumpserint subtrahere de novo , ac alii jura dictarum ecclesiarum in hiis auferre per maliciam ut audivimus sint conati , duplicis maledictionis severitatem dampnabiliter incurrentes , nos utilitati et juri ecclesiarum predictarum , necnon saluti animarum ut si forte injuriosi predicti ex recitatione et publicatione sententiarum predictarum expergefatti et attoniti adiciant ut peniteant , satisfaciētes in premissis plenius de commissis , prospicere cupientes , vobis mandamus firmiter injungendo quatinus in dictis ecclesiis intra missarum solempnia post lectum evangelium , silencio indicto , tribus diebus dominicis proximis monitorium edictum palam faciatis proponi quod hujusmodi legata prestare injuste hactenus impediētes seu impedimentum afferri procurantes , et in hoc jura ecclesiastica auferentes aut subtrahentes , infra mensem a tempore noticie monitionis hujusmodi uno modo vel alio satisfaciānt de presumptis , a sentenciis quas incurrerunt in hac parte se procurantes absolvi . Alioquin omnes hujusmodi transgressores , tanquam libertatis ecclesiastice violatores aliis tribus diebus dominicis hora pretacta excommunicatos esse denunciari solempniter in genere et publice faciatis . Datum apud Ludam VI idus Junii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo et pontificatus nostri anno XII.

PRO DEFECTIBUS EDIFICIORUM DE HOUTON'. To the dean of Grimsby, telling him to compel the vicar of Holton le Clay to restore the buildings of his house, which he had allowed to fall into a state of ruin, and to cease from destroying trees. Louth, June 8, 1291.

Oliverus , etc , decano de Grimesby , etc . Quia vicarius ecclesie de Houton' edificia vicarie sue sine reparatione eorundem intolerabiliter corruere permittit et radicata in fundo ejusdem evellit

et consumit , vastum loci ipsius ut vulgariter loquamur temere ut dicitur faciendo , vobis mandamus quatinus si est ita dictum vicarium ad reedificationem edificiorum dirutorum et a vastatione arborum crescentium in manso predicto ut de cetero desistat , et emendet que in hac parte illicite attemptavit sicut justum fuerit canonice compellatis . Datum apud Ludam VI idus Junii , pontificatus nostri anno XII.

COMMISSIO. Commission to Master Walter of Malling and Master William of Langworth (Langewath'), canons of Lincoln, to discharge the executors of the will of Master Lambert of Fiskerton, rector of Clopton, after spending July 9 and if necessary other days as well in an inquiry into matters arising out of the aforesaid will. The dean of Oundle was ordered to cause an announcement to be made in all the churches of his deanery that all persons affected by the will were to appear before the commissaries on the appointed day. Louth, June 6, 1291.

BUREFORD'. Licence to the vicar of Burford to have his church, which had been polluted by bloodshed, reconciled by any Catholic bishop. Richard Hod, layman, who had caused the bloodshed, was given a suitable penance. (The entry is unfinished.) Louth, June 7, 1291.

[*folio 26v*]

PRO VICARIO DE THURNEBY. To the official of the Archdeacon of Leicester, telling him that the bishop had no wish to claim the revenues of the church of Thurnby during the vacancy caused by the deprivation of John the vicar, and ordering him to divide these revenues, at his discretion, between the said John and the payment of any debts which were burdening the vicarage. Louth, June 8, 1291.

LITTERA CONTRA VIOLATIONEM THORI. To the dean of Horncastle and Hill, telling him not to force Alice of Worlabby, who had been convicted of adultery, to live with her husband Richard if both of them were unwilling. Louth, June 8, 1291.

O. etc , decano de Horncast' et Hill' salutem , etc . Quia Ricardus de Wrikby Aliciam uxorem suam de crimine adulterii et maculatione thori ejusdem Ricardi judicialiter convictam reconciliare non debet invitus nisi idem de consimili turpitudine legitime convincatur , et ob hoc dicta Alicia ad cohabitandum marito suo nolenti cogi non debet de jure , vobis mandamus quatinus eandem ratione habitationis separate a viro suo predicto nisi aliquod canonicum obsistat nullatenus molestetis nec molestari indebite permittatis . Datum apud Ludam , VI idus Junii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo et pontificatus nostri XII.

LITTERA TESTIMONIALIS. Testimonial to the fact that Richard son of Peter of Limber (Limberg') had received all holy orders in Italy by letters dimissory. Louth, June 10, 1291.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to William son of Ranulph of Donington, clerk, to receive all holy orders. Louth, June 9, 1291.

PRO MAGISTRO J. DE DOVERIA RECTORE DE LITTELINGTON'. To the dean of Fleet, ordering him to allow Master John of Dover, rector of Lidlington, to collect the revenues which were formerly assigned to Henry of Wroot the vicar, since the said Master John had sworn in the presence of Master Jocelyn of Kirmington, Master Walter of Wootton and Master Walter of Louth that he would restore the said revenues if it appeared that a vicar should be instituted. Louth, June 11, 1291.

COMMISSIO. Commission to the vicar of the prebendal church of Louth (Luda) to try the case between Idwynne widow of Robert Thore of Legbourne (Lekeburn'), plaintiff, and John vicar of Cawthorpe (Calthorp'), defendant, concerning goods belonging to the said Robert which John was alleged to have in his possession. Louth, June 11, 1291.

LITTERA TESTIMONIALIS SUPER CONSANGUINITATE. Testimonial to the fact that Agnes daughter of Richard Ashwyne of Corringham (Coringham') was born in lawful wedlock and that her father was the brother of Thomas of Corringham, chaplain. The testimonial was obtained in order to support the claim of Agnes to her late uncle's estate in the diocese of Durham. Louth, June 11, 1291.

[No HEADING.] To the dean of Christianity in Lincoln, telling him to preserve a mandate of the bishop for the excommunication of all those who prevented the will of John son of Peter Whit, citizen of Lincoln, from being put into effect, but to take no action until further notice. Louth, June 11, 1291.

PRO HOSPITALARIORUM FRATERIA. To the Dean and chapter of Lincoln, and to all the archdeacons or their officials in the diocese, telling them that Pope Nicholas IV had revoked all the privileges granted to the hospitals and almshouses of any order in the matter of collecting money, but that it was not yet clear whether this prohibition extended to the Hospitallers. Louth, June 12, 1291.

Oliverus , etc , decano et capitulo ecclesie nostre Lincoln' necnon universis archidiaconis per Lincoln' diocesem constitutis vel eorum officialibus salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Licet sanctissimus

pater dominus Nicholaus papa quartus , universis et singulis religiosis ordinibus hospitalium et domorum dei magistris cujuscumque forent conditionis et ordinis questus omnis [*folio 27*] exercicium interdicerit omnino , quelibet privilegia , indulgencias et litteras cujuscumque tenoris existerent eis ab apostolica sede vel ejus legatis aut aliis quibuscumque concessa quoad questum hujusmodi faciendum per suas litteras revocando et nullius esse firmitatis similiter decernendo , non intelligimus tamen quod hujusmodi revocatio generaliter facta ad impediendum collectam fraterie hospitalis Sancti Johannis Jerusalem se extendere debeat in hoc casu , quod vobis tenore presentium duximus significandum . Datum apud Ludam II idus Junii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo et pontificatus nostri XII.

COMMISSIO. Commission to the dean of Grimsby to try the case concerning tithes and mortuary dues between the abbot and convent of Grimsby, plaintiffs, and Roger Irenburgh' and Simon Unwyn of Lincoln and Geoffrey vicar of Dunston (Dunneston'), executors of the will of Alice Kay of Grimsby, defendants. Markby, June 13, 1291.

COMMISSIO. Commission to the dean of Louthesk and the vicar of the prebendal church of Louth to receive the purgation (by twelve witnesses) of Hugh son of the Clerk, Henry de Padholm' and Thomas son of Robert Luve, parishioners of Kirkby-on-Bain (Kirkeby super Bayn'), who were accused of conspiring to prevent the payment of offerings called "Maynport". Markby, June 13, 1291.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to William Bars of ? Codford (Coddeford'), acolyte, to receive all holy orders. Kirton in Holland, June 17, 1291.

[No HEADING.] Commission to the subprior of Caldwell (Calde-well'), Master Ralph rector of Maldon and John rector of Aspley Guise (Aspele) to discharge the executors of the will of Robert of Stagsden (Stacheden') and to report to the bishop. Kirton in Holland, June 17, 1291.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS.¹ To the official of the Archdeacon of Huntingdon or the dean of Alconbury, ordering them to warn and if necessary excommunicate all those who were seizing the revenues of the church of Brington during a time of sequestration, and if possible to find out their names and cite them to appear for judgement. A report was to be made to the bishop of any action taken

¹ The words 'pro vacationibus ecclesiarum' are written in the margin in a fourteenth-century hand.

in this matter and of any names which were discovered. Sleaford, June 18, 1291.

O. permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilecto in Christo filio¹ officiali archidiaconi Hunt' vel¹ decano de Alkemundbir' salutem , graciam et benedictionem . Licet fructus et proventus parochialis ecclesie de Brinton' vacantis ad mandatum nostrum artius sequestraveritis , prout ex tenore certificatorii vestri officialis nobis inde transmissi colligitur evidenter , quidam tamen rei sacre invasores quorum nomina et personas penitus ignoramus , decimas et oblationes ac alios proventus ecclesie predictae a tempore dicti sequestri per vos officialem interpositi obvencientes occupare , contractare et de eisdem non sine nota sacrilegii pro sua voluntate disponere temere presumpserunt in juris nostri episcopali immo libertatis ecclesie prejudicium , animarum suarum grande periculum et scandalum plurimorum . Nos igitur tante temeritatis excessum nolentes relinquere impunitum , vobis in virtute obediencie firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus omnes violatores sequestri predicti qui fructus et proventus eodem durante sine voluntate et consciencia nostra aut eorum ad quos hujusmodi fructuum collectio seu prescriptio nostro nomine spectat , illicite perceperunt et propria temeritate occuparunt , in dicta ecclesia de Brinton' et aliis duabus vel tribus ecclesiis vicinis ac locis aliis quibus videritis expedire , per vos seu alios palam in genere moneatis , quod ea que injuste occuparunt et percipere in premissis dampnabiliter attemptarunt , infra XV dies a tempore noticie monitionis hujusmodi nobis seu sequestratori nostro plenius restituant , aut de sic perceptis satisfaciant prout decet . Alioquin eosdem canonica monitione premissa in dictis ecclesiis intra missarum solempnia , pulsatis campanis , candelis accensis , in genere solempniter excommunicetis seu excommunicari publice faciatis . De nominibus dictorum transgressorum diligentius inquirentes , cum vobis constiterit de eisdem ipsos citetis peremptorie , quod certo die eis pro vestro arbitrio statuendo compareant coram nobis ubicumque , etc , penam pro suis demeritis recepturi . Et quid super hoc duxeritis faciendum , nos litteris vestris patentibus harum seriem et modum executionis hujus mandati nostri ac nomina illorum quos culpabiles inveneritis in hac parte diemque ad quem ipsos citaveritis plenius continentibus certificetis [*folio 27**] tempore oportuno . Valete . Datum apud Lafford' XIII kalendas Julii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to Thomas of Beesby (Beseby), acolyte. Boston, June 16, 1291.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to Henry of Elmington, acolyte. Boston, June 16, 1291.

¹ Blank in MS.

LITTERA DE SANCTO BOTULPHO.¹ To the dean of Holland, ordering him to enforce throughout his deanery the bishop's rules against the use of bigamists and married clerks as servers, and against the desecration of churchyards by beasts. Kirton in Holland, June 17, 1291.

O. etc ,² decano Hoyland' etc . Quia in ultima visitatione nostre decanatus Hoyland' inter cetera quedam reformatione digna audivimus utputa bigamos et clericos conjugatos ministrare sacerdotibus in altari , aquam portare benedictam , cimiteria ecclesiarum parochialium per pecora rectorum , vicariorum , capellanorum et aliorum turpiter maculari , sive per defectum clausure sive per quorundam negligenciam aut alias ex proposito , ipsorum etiam locorum sacrorum immunitatem alias multipliciter violari , nos circa premissa remedium congruum debita executione adhiberi volentes , vobis in virtute obediencie firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus ne pretacta in decanatu vestro de cetero tolerantur et fiant curam pervigilem adhibere curetis , in hiis temere excedentes animadversione condigna canonicè puniendo . Datum apud Kirketon' in Hoyland' XV kalendas Julii, anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo et pontificatus nostri XII.

LITTERA DE SANCTO BOTULPHO. To the clergy of the parish church of Boston, ordering them to forbid, on pain of excommunication, the letting of lodgings in Boston to harlots, and to cite all who offended against this prohibition to appear before the bishop or the dean of Holland for judgement. Kirton in Holland, June 17, 1291.

O. etc , capellanis parochialis ecclesie de Sancto Botulpho , etc . Quia preter feditatem peccati ex receptione seu hospitacione meretricum in villa Sancti Botulphi multipliciter surgentis , nonnunquam dampna rerum et pericula corporum oriuntur frequenter ibidem , vobis in virtute obediencie firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus in ecclesia Sancti Botulphi tribus diebus dominicis proxime futuris intra missarum solempnia , ac diebus , locis et horis aliis quibus videritis expedire , sub pena excommunicationis firmiter inhibeatis ne quis in instanti tempore nundinarum seu alio hujusmodi scenicis mulieribus domos aut habitaculum per se vel alium locare seu locationi consentire presumat , omnes et singulos contra hujusmodi inhibitionem dampnabiliter venientes coram decano Hoyland' seu nobipsis ubicumque , etc , certo die pro vestro arbitrio statuendo peremptorie citetis quod compareant penam pro demeritis recepturi condignam . Qualiter autem hoc mandatum nostrum fueritis executi nos vel dictum decanum in forma debita certificetis tempore oportuno . Datum apud Kirketon' in Hoyland

¹ This heading does not seem to bear much relation to the text.

² Blank in MS.

XV kalendas Julii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo et pontificatus nostri XII.

COMMISSIO. Commission to the dean of Lafford to try the case between the prior and convent of Kyme (Kyna), plaintiffs, and the executors of the will of Sir Edmund of Whaplode (Quappelade) knight, concerning the said will. Sleaford, June 22, 1291.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Robert son of Herbert of Anderby, acolyte, to receive all holy orders. Sleaford, June 22, 1291.

COMMISSIO ELIEN'. Bishop Sutton, the Bishop of London and the dean of S. Martin-le-Grand to the Archdeacon of Essex and Master Hugh of Collingham, canon of London, committing to them the lawsuit between Master John d'Oseville, Archdeacon of Ely and (as he claimed) rector of Balsham on the one hand and the Bishop of Ely, Master Ralph of Fotheringhay and Thomas of Louth on the other, in which lawsuit the said Bishop Sutton, Bishop of London and dean of S. Martin-le-Grand were acting as papal judges-delegate. Sleaford, June 24, 1291.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus una cum reverendo patre domino¹ London' episcopo et¹ decano ecclesie Sancti Martini Magni London' iudex inter partes infrascriptas a sede apostolica delegatus, discretis viris domino¹ archidiacono Essex' in ecclesia London' et magistro Hugoni de Colingham canonico London' salutem in auctore salutis. In causis et negotiis inter magistrum Johannem de Oseville archidiaconum Elien' eundemque rectorem de Balsham Elien' diocesis ut pretendit ex parte una, et venerabilem patrem dominum W. dei gracia Elien' episcopum et Magistros Radulphum de Foderingheye ac Thoma de Luda ex altera, auctoritate sedis apostolice motis, ac domino London' et decano ecclesie Sancti Martini Magni London' predictis nobis ab eadem sede commissis, vobis vices nostras committimus cum cohercionis canonice potestate donec commissionem hujusmodi duxerimus revocandam. Quod si non ambo hiis interesse potueritis exequendis, unus vestrum ea nicholominus exequatur. Valete. Datum apud Lafford' octavo kalendas Julii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo.

PRO FABRICA CAMPANILIS DE BURTON'. Note of a letter, in substantially the same form as that concerning the church of Hagworthingham,² to Robert de Burton the sequestrator on account of the fabric and belfry of the church of Burton Stather. Sempringham, June 26, 1291.

¹ Blank in MS.

² See above, p. 25.

[*folio 28*]

LITTERA OFFICIALIS CANT'.¹ Note of a letter (given in full) from the official of Canterbury ordering the bishop to put pressure upon his own official to cite the Abbots of Bourne and Nutley to appear before the said official of Canterbury and make answer concerning their custody of the churches of Colsterworth and Quinton. Bishop Sutton replied that he would not execute this mandate on account of his appeal to the pope. Bourne, June 27, 1291.

On June 28, at Market Deeping, the bishop renewed his appeal to the pope, and it was read by Master Robert of Kilworth in the presence of Master Henry of Nassington, Master Jocelyn of Kirmington and Master Walter of Wootton, canons of Lincoln, John de Scalleby rector of Sutton-le-Marsh, Robert of Kibworth rector of Saddington and Roger of Sixhills rector of Wing, and of John of Bayton and John of Ferriby clerks. A letter reporting this appeal (given in full) was written to the official of Canterbury on June 28, and on June 29 Master Robert of Kilworth, armed with letters of proxy (given in full) set out to deliver it.

Venit apud Lafford' nono kalendas Julii anno XII littera officialis Cant' sub hac forma : — Venerabili in Christo patri domino O. dei gracia Lincoln' episcopo² officialis curie Cant' salutem cum reverencia et honore . Olim officiali vestro in certa forma sub pena canonice districtiōnis mandavimus quod abbates de Brunne et de Nuttele citaret quod certa die coram nobis comparerent de fructibus et obventionibus ecclesiarum de Colstwrth' et de Quenhill' sive Quenton' quarum dum vacabant sequestrum sive custodiam eis commiserimus , eo tempore et in eo casu quibus custodia dictarum ecclesiarum de antiqua est approbata consuetudine ad dominum archiepiscopum Cant' pertinebat et yconomum ponere in eisdem de fructibus earundem ecclesiarum compotum reddituri et de ipsis satisfacturi prout tenebantur . Sed idem officialis tanquam filius inobediens non solum mandatum nostrum exequi neglexit , immo contumaciter recusavit , excusationem pretendens frivolam , que in ore suo non sedebat nec aliquo modo ei competeat . Nos vero postea ad ejus convincendam versutiam et duritiam reprimendam nostris litteris iterato ei mandavimus , sub pena excommunicationis late in eundem si in executione mandati nostri negligens esset vel remissus , quod predictos abbates citaret ad certum diem et locum quibus coram nobis comparerent , de dictis fructibus compotum reddituri . Sed idem officialis induratus ut cor Pharaonis et inflatus spiritu superbie parere contempsit , excommunicationis sententiam contempnens et bibens eam tanquam aquam , pretendens

¹ The words 'contra vacationes ecclesiarum' are written in the margin in a fourteenth-century hand.

² Blank in MS.

in sui excusationem frivolum , quod vos sub pena excommunicationis et privationis beneficii ecclesiastici inhibuistis ne mandatum nostrum executioni demandaret , quod a pluribus non creditur esse verum . Quare vos rogamus , monemus et cum qua reverencia decet precipimus , mandantes in virtute obediencie qua sedi Cant' tenemini , et juramenti eidem ecclesie prestiti , quatinus eidem officiali vestro precipiatis , injungatis , quod dictum mandatum nostrum exequatur , citando dictos abbates ad certum diem quo coram nobis compareant in ecclesia Beate Marie de Arcubus London' predicto modo compotum reddituri infra festum Sancti Jacobi apostoli proxime venturum , et de diei¹ , assignatione et termino et de executione mandati nostri nos per suas patentes litteras reddat certiores . Vos autem quid super hiis feceritis et facere intenditis et de executione mandati nostri reddatis certiores per vestras patentes litteras harum seriem continentes infra octavas nativitatis Sancti Johannis Baptiste proxime venientis , sic in executione hujus mandati vos habentes , quod de obediencia possitis commendari et non oporteat nos ad alia procedere quod inviti faceremus . Valeat paternitas vestra per tempora longa . Datum die Lune in crastino Sancte Trinitatis , anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo . — Et postmodum quinto kalendas Julii proxime sequente apud Brunne fuit certificatum sub hac forma:² — Venerabili viro domino³ officiali curie Cant' , Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus salutem et reverencia cum honore . Litteras vestras nono kalendas Julii recepimus subscriptam seriem continentes : — Venerabili in Christo patri domino O. etc , — ut supra de verbo ad verbum . Verum cum nos et capitulum Lincoln' ac officialis noster a prefatis mandatis vestris sibi directis et gravaminibus in mandatis hujusmodi comprehensis ad sedem apostolicam duxerimus appellandum , ne dominus archiepiscopus Cant' seu vos aut quovis alius vel alii auctoritate vestra seu alterutrius vestrum vel alia auctoritate quacumque suspendendo , interdicens , excommunicando , precipiendo , mandando , denunciando , diffiniendo , statuendo , sequestrando , seu alio quovismodo occasione predicta vel alia quacumque in nostri prejudicium faceretis , faceret seu facerent aliququaliter attemptari solempniter provocando , necnon appellationem et provocationem easdem coram vobis facerimus interponi , nos ad injunctionem et preceptum officiali nostro ut premittitur faciendum procedere non deceret , nisi saltem cum ipso officiale de cujus facto agitur et aliis quorum interest qui post receptionem dicti mandati et ante in remotis agebant , deliberatione habita competenti , quam hactenus nos habere temporis artatio non permisit . Et icirco prescriptum mandatum vestrum nondum fuimus

¹ *Sic, recte* 'die'.

² The word 'Certificatorium' appears in the margin in John de Scalleby's hand.

³ Blank in MS.

executi . Super hoc tamen imposterum salvo jure nostro et Lincoln' ecclesie intendimus facere quod est justum , et mandatis curie Cant' promptius obedire . Valet . Datum apud Brunne , V kalendas Julii , anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo . — Et nichilominus die sequenti , videlicet IIII kalendas Julii apud Est Deping in prioratu in camera qua jacuit episcopus , presentibus Magistris Henrico de Nassington' , Gocelino de Kirnington' , Waltero de Wutton' , Roberto de Kivlingwrth' , canonicis Lincoln' , et dominis J. de Scalleby , Roberto de Kibbewrth' , Rogero de Sixill' , de Sutton in Lindes' , de Sadington' et de Weng' ecclesiarum rectoribus , [folio 28^v] ac Johanne de Bayton' et Johanne de Feriby clericis , appellavit episcopus sub hac forma :¹ — In dei nomine amen . Licet vacantibus ecclesiis Lincoln' diocesis deputare seu ponere yconomos seu custodes ad percipiendum fructus et obventiones ecclesiarum hujusmodi ipsarum vacatione durante , etiam si inter presentatum et presentantes ad easdem ecclesias et nos² Lincoln' episcopum super eis in curia Cant' questio ventiletur , ad nos et episcopum Lincoln' qui pro tempore fuerit , de jure et antiqua ac approbata consuetudine hactenus observata pertinere noscatur et non ad dominum archiepiscopum Cant' seu ejus officialem nisi id in aliquo casu fortassis ad eos devolvi contigerit ,² officialis tamen curie Cant' primo sub pena distractionis canonice et postmodum sub pena excommunicationis officiali nostro mandavit quod citaret abbates de Brunne et de Nuttele ad reddendum compotum de fructibus et obventionibus ecclesiarum de Colstwrth' et de Quenhill' sive Quenton' nostre diocesis pro tempore quo vacarunt , et sibi de hujusmodi fructibus et obventionibus respondendum in casu quo nullo modo specabat ad dominum archiepiscopum Cant' seu ipsum officialem de eisdem fructibus et obventionibus aequaliter ordinare . Nos igitur attendentes dictum mandatum nullum casum exprimens quoad dominum archiepiscopum seu ejus officialem fructuum et obventionum dictarum ecclesiarum dispositio pertinebat , in juris nostri , ecclesie et capituli Lincoln' , grave prejudicium redundare , sentientes quod ex mandato predicto nostro officiali primo directo indebite nos gravari , ab eodem ad sedem apostolicam legitime duximus appellandum , ac postmodum nos et capitulum nostrum Lincoln' , neenon officialis noster , a prefato mandato eidem secundo directo solempniter appellavimus , ne dominus archiepiscopus seu ejus officialis seu alius vel alii occasione premissa vel alia quicquam in nostri prejudicium faceret seu facerent aequaliter attemptari , dictam sedem sub certa forma nichilominus provocando , quibus appellationibus et provocationibus nos velle inviti expressius protestamur . Verum¹ officialis Cant' hujusmodi appellationibus et provocationibus coram eo interpositis

¹ The word 'Appellatio' appears in the margin in John de Scalleby's hand, and the words 'pro vacationibus ecclesiarum' in a fourteenth-century hand.

² Blank in MS.

non sine contemptu sedis apostolice vilipensis , nobis¹
 Lincoln' episcopo per suas litteras dederat in mandatis ut precipere-
 mus et injungeremus officiali nostro quod citaret prefatos abbates ad
 reddendum compotum de fructibus et obventionibus ecclesiarum
 dictarum juxta priorum continentiam mandatorum . Quarum
 litterarum tenor talis est : — ' Venerabili in Christo patri domino
 O. dei gracia Lincoln' episcopo ' , etc , ut supra eodem folio de verbo
 ad verbum . Cum igitur absque juris injuria et gravi prejudicio
 nostre episcopalis dignitatis ac ecclesie et capituli Lincoln' , archi-
 diaconorum et aliorum subditorum nostrorum , necnon appella-
 tionumstrarum , mandatum hujusmodi exequi non possimus ,
 et sic ad executionem ejusdem minime teneamur , sentientes ex
 eodem mandato nos gravari , ab ipso mandato et gravaminibus
 comprehensis in eo pro nobis , ecclesia et capitulo Lincoln' , abbatibus
 et archidiaconis nostris ac subditis quibuscumque et omnibus nostris
 adherentibus , sedem apostolicam appellamus et apostolos petimus .
 Et ne dominus archiepiscopus Cant' vel officialis ipsius seu quivis
 alius seu alii auctoritate sua seu alterius eorundem vel alia auctoritate
 quacumque suspendendo , interdicando , excommunicando , pre-
 ciipiando , mandando , denunciando , diffiniendo , statuendo ,
 sequestrando , seu alio quovis modo occasione dicti mandati seu
 alia , quicquam in nostri et ecclesie ac capituli Lincoln' , abbatum ,
 archidiaconorum , quorumcumque subditorum nostrorum , nec-
 non nobis adherentium prejudicium faciat seu faciant aliququaliter
 attemptari , ad dictam sedem apostolicam provocamus , subi-
 cientes nos , ecclesiam et capitulum Lincoln' , abbates , archi-
 diaconos et quoscumque subditos nostros , necnon omnes nobis
 adherentes et bona nostra quecumque protectioni sedis ejusdem ,
 ac protestantes nos velle in presencia dicti officialis hanc appella-
 tionem nostram innovare et ab eo appellare ac apostolos
 petere cum ipsius copia haberi poterit oportune . — Hanc appel-
 lationem predictam legit magister Robertus de Kivelingwrth'
 supradictus quem ad hoc constituit episcopus organum sue
 vocis . Qui quidem magister Robertus die sequenti , scilicet III
 kalendas Julii , versus officialem Cant' pro notificatione dicte
 appellationis coram eo facienda profectus , detulit secum quoddam
 procuratorium speciale ad notificandum dicto officiali Cant' et
 innovandum coram eo appellationem predictam ac etiam denuo
 appellandum ab ipso et cetera faciendum , etc , cum potestate
 substituendi ad premissa . Et nichilominus aliud generale procura-
 torium sub hac forma :² — Pateat universis et singulis quod nos
 Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus in omnibus causis
 et negotiis motis et movendis nos et ecclesiam nostram qualiter-
 cumque contingentibus , dilectum nobis in Christo magistrum

¹ Blank in MS.

² The words ' Procuratorium episcopi ' are written in the margin in John de Scalleby's hand. There is a drawing of a hand.

Robertum de Kivelingwrth' canonicum Lincoln' ecclesie clericum nostrum procuratorem nostrum constituimus, facimus et ordinamus. Dantes eidem potestatem et speciale mandatum [*folio 29*] nomine nostro agendi, defendendi, status nostri et ecclesie nostre reformationem quotiens opus fuerit ac expensas petendi et recipiendi, cujuslibet generis juramentum in animam nostram prestandi, ponendi, positionibus respondendi, appellandi, appellationem prosequendi ac appellationes quoscumque per nos ipsos interpositas et interponendas ubi et quando expedire viderit nomine nostro innovandi, et eas denuo interponendi, apostolos petendi et recipiendi, alium seu alios procuratorem seu procuratores loco sui ad omnia premissa substituendi et procuratoris officium resumendi, ac omnia et singula alia faciendi que nos facere possemus si presentes essemus. Pro eodem etiam procuratore nostro et ab eo substitutis aut substituto rem ratam haberi et judicatum solvi sub ypotheca rerum nostrarum promittimus. Hoc idem iudicibus partibus adversis et omnibus aliis quorum interest tenore presentium significamus, aliis procuratoriis quibuscumque procuratoribus nostris aliis prius per nos concessis in suo robore duraturis. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum. Datum apud Deping' IIII kalendas Julii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo. — Tenor vero procuratorii specialis de quo supra fit mentio talis est :¹ — Pateat universis et singulis quod cum dominus² officialis curie Cant' primo sub pena districtiōnis canonice et postmodum sub pena excommunicationis² officiali nostro dudum litteris suis mandavit quod abbates de Brunne et de Nuttele citaret quod compareant coram eo ad reddendum computum de fructibus et obventionibus ecclesiarum de Colstwrth' et de Quenton' nostre diocesis pro tempore quo vacarunt, et sibi de hujusmodi fructibus et obventionibus respondendum in casu quo nullo modo spectabat ad dominum² archiepiscopum Cant' seu ejus officialem de eisdem fructibus et obventionibus aequaliter ordinare, ac nos O. permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus a mandato dicti officialis Cant' prefato officiali nostro primo directo tanquam injurioso ad sedem apostolicam legitime duxerimus appellandum, ac postmodum nos et capitulum nostrum Lincoln', necnon officialis noster predictus a prefato mandato eidem secundo directo prefatam sedem appellaverimus, idemque officialis Cant' hujusmodi appellationibus et provocationibus nostris coram eo interpositis non sine contemptu sedis apostolice villipensis, nobis per litteras suas jam de novo dederit in mandatis ut precipere et injungeremus officiali nostro quod citaret abbates prefatos ad reddendum computum de fructibus et obventionibus ecclesiarum predictarum juxta priorum continentiam mandatorum,

¹ The word 'Procuratorium' is written in the margin in John de Scalleby's hand. There is also a drawing of a hand.

² Blank in MS.

nosque ab hujusmodi mandato officialis curie Cant' nobis directo tanquam injurioso et gravaminibus comprehensis in eo pro nobis , ecclesia et capitulo Lincoln' abbatis predictis et archidiaconis nostris et omnibus nobis adherentibus infra tempus legitimum postquam idem mandatum ad nostram pervenit noticiam , prefatam sedem apostolicam legitime appellaverimus , ne dominus archiepiscopus Cant' vel officialis ipsius seu quivis alius seu alii auctoritate sua seu alterius eorundem vel alia auctoritate quacumque suspendendo , interdicendo , excommunicando seu alio modo quovis occasione dicti mandati seu alia quicquam in nostri et ecclesie ac capituli Lincoln' , abbatum , archidiaconorum et quorumcumque subditorum nostrorum , necnon nobis adherentium prejudicium faciat seu faciant aliququaliter attemptari , ad prefatam sedem apostolicam sollempniter provocando . Ad notificandum dicto officiali hujusmodi appellationem et provocationem nostram et denuo coram eo appellandum et provocandum , apostolosque ab eo petendum et recipiendum , alium procuratorem loco suo ad premissa substituendum , omniaque alia faciendum que in hoc casu occurrerint facienda , et que nos facere possemus si presentes essemus , dilectum clericum nostrum magistrum Robertum de Kivelingwrth' procuratorem nostrum ordinamus , facimus et constituimus per presentes , ratum habiturum et firmum quicquid dictus procurator , substitutus vel substituti ab eo in premissis duxerit aut duxerint faciendum . In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum . Datum apud Deping' IIII kalendas Julii , anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo.

COMMISSIO. Commission to the sacrist of Peterborough Abbey, the dean of Peterborough and the subsequestrator in the said deanery, to hear and settle the complaints of Isabel widow of Master Hugh of Friskney and Maud his daughter, and her husband William of Stamford. Isabel claimed that as she was childless she should have half the estate, while William and Maud claimed that Maud's share should be paid before the division of the remainder was made. The commissaries were told to settle the case if possible and report to the bishop ; if any difficulties arose the bishop was prepared to deal with them. Caistor, June 29, 1291.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilectis in Christo filiis¹ sacriste monasterii de Burgo Sancti Petri ,¹ decano de Burgo et¹ subsequestratori nostro in eodem decanatu salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Constituta nuper coram nobis Isabella relicta quondam magistri Hugonis de Freskeneye intestati defuncti , a nobis instantius postulavit , ut medietatem bonorum ejusdem defuncti de jure consuetudinario regni deficientibus liberis communibus sibi debitam , eidem per sequestratorem nostrum

¹ Blank in MS.

hujusmodi bona occupantem seu sub sequestro prout moris est in casu pretacto tenentem , liberari plenius faceremus . At econtra Willelmus de Staunford' maritus Matildis filie predicti magistri Hugonis ipsa presente proposuit pro se et uxore sua predicta petitionem prefate Isabelle fieri non debere nec posse procedere de jure , priusquam bona eorundem Willelmi et Matildis inter res intestati predicti commixta prehabita probatione ad quam faciendam se dicebant fore paratos tempore oportuno , declarentur et liberentur eisdem . Nos vero cuique sua jura [*folio 29^v*] quantum in nobis est servare volentes , vobis mandamus quatinus de omnibus et singulis bonis dicti magistri Hugonis apud ipsum tempore mortis sue inventis et ad ipsum qualitercumque spectantibus , in presencia virorum fidedignorum qui substancia defuncti verisimilius noverunt fideli inventario confecto , aut ei si factum existat inter notos et amicos dicti defuncti et alios quorum interest , puplice recitato ut appareat utrum quivis hujusmodi inventarium in forma debita arguere possit et velit , audita etiam petitione dictorum Willelmi et Matildis , necnon omnium creditorum ac aliorum quicquam petere volentium in hoc casu , premissa denunciatione quod certis die et loco compareant coram vobis admissisque probationibus eorundem , vocatis vocandis et auditis omnibus que exaudiri debent et admitti in hoc casu , tam dicte Isabelle quam prefatis Willelmo et Matildi ac aliis quos hujusmodi negotium contingit exhibeatis justicie complementum . Ad quam faciendum in hac parte vobis vices nostras committimus cum coercicionis canonice potestate . Quod si non omnes hiis interfueritis exequendis , duo vestrum ea nichilominus exequantur . Si vero aliqua difficultas emeruerit in processu , illam nobis reservetis decidendam si videritis expedire . Qualiter autem processeritis et quid feceritis in premissis , nos litteris vestris patentibus harum seriem et processum vestrum totum continentibus certificetis tempore oportuno . Valete . Datum apud Castr' III kalendas Julii , anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo et pontificatus nostri XII.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to John of Grantham (Graham), clerk, to receive all holy orders. Caistor, June 30, 1291.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to Elias son of Thomas Russel of Messingham, clerk, Caistor, June 30, 1291.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS. Note of a sentence of general excommunication, to be published by the dean of Higham, upon all those who had seized the church of Newton (Newenton') by violence, and were not allowing divine service to be celebrated in it. The letter was in the same form as that concerning the church of Radclive (Radeclive) in the roll of the memoranda for the tenth year of Sutton's episcopate.¹ Spaldwick, July 2, 1291.

¹ This roll is lost.

GRACIA FACTA HENRICO JUPARTI. Licence to Henry Juparti, chaplain, who had been suspended for misbehaviour, to minister in the orders of deacon and subdeacon for a year, with a prospect of a further grace at the end of it. Spaldwick, July 3, 1291.

LITTERA TESTIMONIALIS. Testimonial to the institution of John of Llanfair (Lanfare) to the church of Sacombe (Sauvecaump'). Spaldwick, July 4, 1291.

PRO VICARIO DE NASSINGTON'. Receipt for a hundred and sixty marks, the fruits of the prebend of Nassington, handed over for safe-keeping by Geoffrey the prebendal vicar, in the presence of Master Walter of Wootton and Robert of Kibworth, clerks of the bishop. Spaldwick, July 3, 1291.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to Robert de Boweles, clerk. Spaldwick, July 5, 1291.

COMMISSIO. Commission to the master of the hospital at Brackley (Brakele) and the vicar of Brackley to discharge the executors of John le Moyne rector of Farthinghoe (Farninghou). Spaldwick, July 5, 1291.

CARTA ABBATIS ET CONVENTUS DE BURGO. Note of the sealing, with the bishop's seal, of a charter of the Abbot and convent of Peterborough, dated September 29, 1290, by which the abbot and convent granted to the vicar of Peterborough and his successors one messuage in Hougate, adjoining the vicar's house, for an annual rent of six and eightpence, to be paid in equal instalments at Christmas, Easter, Midsummer Day and Michaelmas. Witnessed by Master Robert of Sheffield, steward of Peterborough, John of Bringhurst, Bernard of Caistor, Simon le Butiler, Reginald Parys and many others. Bishop Sutton's seal was placed upon this charter at Spaldwick, July 6, 1291.

II nonas Julii anno XII apud Spaldewyk' consignata fuit quedam littera abbatis et conventus de Burgo Sancti Petri sub hac forma : — Omnibus sancte matris ecclesie filiis presens scriptum visuris vel audituris , abbas de Burgo Sancti Petri et ejusdem loci conventus salutem in domino sempiternam . Noverit universitas vestra nos tradidisse , dimisisse et concessisse vicario de Burgo et successoribus suis nomine capelli Sancti Johannis et ratione mesuagii sui dilatandi unum mesuagium cum pertincenciis suis in Hougate quod habuimus de dono Ricardi de Den' et Agnetis uxoris ejus , quod quidem mesuagium [*folio 30*] situm est inter domos predicti vicarii ex parte una et domos quondam Petri Longtale ex altera , continens in longitudinem septies viginti et quatuor pedes et triginta quinque

pedes in latitudine , tenendum et habendum predictum mesuagium cum pertinenciis predicto vicario et successoribus suis de nobis et successoribus nostris bene et in pace , libere et quiete , reddendo inde annuatim capelle Beate Marie virginis in nostro monasterio constructe sex solidos et octo denarios ad quatuor anni terminos usuales , videlicet ad Natale domini viginti denarios , ad pascham XX denarios , ad festum Beati Johannis Baptiste viginti denarios et ad festum Sancti Michaelis viginti denarios pro omni servicio , sectis , curiarum auxiliis , wardis ac releviis . Nos vero predicti abbas et conventus et successores nostri predicto vicario et successoribus suis predictum mesuagium cum pertinenciis ut predictum est contra omnes gentes warantizabimus , adquietabimus et imperpetuum defendemus . In cujus rei testimonium presenti scripto in modum cirograffi confecto sigilla partium , sigillum domini Oliveri tunc Lincoln' episcopi presentibus est appensum . Datum apud Burgum Sancti Petri in festo Sancti Michaelis , anno regni regis Edwardi nonodecimo . Hiis testibus , Magistro Roberto de Scheffeld' tunc senescallo Burgi , Johanne de Bringhirst' , Bernardo de Castr' , Simone le Butiler , Reginaldo Parys et aliis multis.

PRO VISITATIONE DE TIKEFORD'. To the prior and convent of Tickford, announcing that the bishop proposed to visit the house on July 12, on account of 'sinister rumours'. A letter was also sent to the Archdeacon of Buckingham telling him to warn the monks to submit to the visitation, and to report to the bishop on July 12. Spaldwick, July 7, 1291.

O. permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilecto in Christo filiis¹ priori et monachis de Tykeford' extra Neuportpaynel' salutem , graciam et benedictionem . Cum propter emergentes quandoque subditorum excessus tempus visitationis debite consuetum sollicitudo prevenire prebeat prelatorum , nos qui de quorundam vestrum insolenciis sinistros rumores audivimus e vicino , hujusmodi rubiginem debita correctione prout possumus tollere cupientes , vos tenore presentium premunimus quod hac instanti die Jovis proxime post festum translationis Sancti Thome martiris ad domum vestram causa visitationis inibi faciente venire seu aliquem vel aliquos de nostris proponimus destinare , vobis in virtute obediencie firmiter injungendo mandantes quatinus ad visitationis predice susceptionem promptius vos parantes , presenciam vestram die Jovis predicto in capitulo vestro unanimiter exhibere curetis , confratres vestros absentes , si qui sint , domum quantocius revocantes . Valete . Datum apud Spaldewyk' nonas Julii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo et pontificatus nostri duodecimo . Item , quasi sub eadem forma scriptum fuit archidiacono Buck' quod dictos priorem et monachos premuniret et injungeret ad contenta

¹ Blank in MS.

in dicta littera facienda . Et certificaret episcopum vel locum suum tenentem die Jovis supradicto.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to Henry of Leighton (Leyeton') clerk. Spaldwick, July 7, 1291.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to Walter of Leighton (Leyeton') acolyte. Spaldwick, July 7, 1291.

CONCESSIO CANTARIE. Licence to William called Fountains of Killingholme to have a private chapel, because the road between his house and the parish church was difficult in winter. He was to attend the parish church on certain specified feast days and on every Sunday in high summer. The consent of the abbot and convent of Newhouse and of the vicar of Killingholme were obtained, and a record of the grant was to be kept in the missal of Killingholme church. Spaldwick, July 7, 1291.

Eisdem die , anno et loco licenciavit episcopus Willelmum dictum de Funteyns de Kylingholm' quod propter difficultatem itineris inter manerium suum de Kylingholm' et ecclesiam parochialem ville ejusdem saltem tempore yemali posset in quodam oratorio infra manerium suum predictum constructo dum tamen decens esset et honestum divina sibi et libere familie sue per sacerdotem propriis sumptibus exhibendum facere celebrari quoad viveret , ita tamen quod in festis omnium sanctorum , Sancti Dionysii , Natalis Domini , Pasche , Ascensionis Domini , Pentecostis , Sancte Trinitatis , Nativitatis Sancti Johannis Baptiste , Purificationis Beate Marie et singulis aliis festis virginis ejusdem necnon singulis diebus dominicis et solempnitatibus majoris estatis ecclesiam predictam visitent juste impedimento cessante , quodque singuli capellani in dicto oratorio ministraturi in sui adventus principio de restituendis oblationibus matrici ecclesie predictae prestant ad sancta dei evangelia juramentum . Et ad hujusmodi omnia abbas et conventus de Neuhaus dictam ecclesiam in usus proprios possidentes et vicarius loci prestiterunt consensum . Et additum fuit in littera quam super hoc habuit dictus Willelmus quod tenor ejusdem littere in missali diete ecclesie conscriberetur.

OBLIGATIO EPISCOPI PRO BOSCO EMPTO. Acknowledgement by the bishop of a debt of a hundred marks sterling to Thomas de Beyville for oakwood, to be paid in instalments. Upton, June 16, 1291.

Universis pateat per presentes quod nos Oliverus dei gracia Lincoln' episcopus tenemur et fatemur nos esse obligatos Thome de Beyuille in centum marcis sterlingorum pro quercibus emptis in bosco suo de Siwardesheye et fundo et terra in quibus eedem

quercus sint crescentes , quam quidem pecuniam eidem Thome vel suis executoribus vel eorum attornatis nobis hanc litteram deferentibus , bona fide solvere promittimus ad terminos infrascriptis, videlicet viginti libras [*folio 30^v*] in octabas Sancti Johannis Baptiste anno regni regis Edwardi nonodecimo , et decem libras in festo Sancti Michaelis proxime sequente , et triginta sex libras tresdecim solidos et quatuor denarios citra festum Sancti Johannis Baptiste anno regni regis Edwardi vicesimo . In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum . Datum apud Upton' die Sabbati proxime post festum Sancte Barnabe apostoli anno supradicto et pontificatus nostri duodecimo.

COMMISSIO. Commission to the dean of Grantham and to Master John of Fledborough (Fletburg'), rector of Haugham (Hagham) to discharge the executors of William of Stanton (Staunton') steward of Sir James de Brun, knight. Spaldwick, July 8, 1291.

PRO DECIMA DOMINO REGI CONCESSA. To the Archdeacon of Northampton, ordering him to use ecclesiastical censure to compel the payment of arrears owed by those who had not paid the first half of the tenth granted to the King by Convocation, and to collect the said arrears and the second half of the payment before Holy Cross Day (September 14) and to report to the bishop within four days afterwards. Similar letters were sent to all the archdeacons of the diocese with the exception of the Archdeacons of Leicester and Lincoln. The letter for the archdeaconry of Leicester was addressed to the official of the archdeacon, and that for the archdeaconry of Lincoln to Master Simon of Worth.¹ Spaldwick, July 7, 1291.

O. etc. , dilecto in Christo filio² archidiacono Norhamt' salutem, etc. Nuper letteris nostris sub certa forma vobis dedimus in mandatis quod medietatem decime per dominum archiepiscopum Cant' et suffraganeos suos et procuratores cleri provincie Cant' in ultima congregatione prelatorum apud Ely in ultima congregatione prelatorum apud Ely domino regi concessa , pro termino Pasche jam preteriti quantum ad archidiaconatum vestrum citra festum Annunciationis gloriose virginis ultime transactum plenius colligeritis , de qua , quedam arreragia adhuc restant colligenda prout nobis non est diu rescribere curavistis . Quocirca vobis in virtute obediencie firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus id quod de prefata medietate superest solvendum per censuram ecclesiasticam in non solventes et rebelles acrius exercendam celeriter exigentes reliquam medietatem decime supradicte citra festum Exaltationis Sancte Crucis proxime futurum colligere et censura consimili levare si necesse fuerit , absque dissimulatione qualibet non tardetis .

¹ See above, pp. 65-66.

² Blank in MS.

Et quid super hiis duxeritis faciendum , nos litteris vestris patentibus harum seriem et summam per vos tunc collectam ac nomina non solventium si que fuerint ea vice , et qualiter processeritis contra ipsos apertius continentibus , infra quatuor dies post festum Exaltationis predictum certiores reddere non tardetis . Valet . Datum apud Spaldewyk' nonis Julii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo et pontificatus nostri duodecimo .—Et sub eadem forma scriptum fuit singulis archidiaconis Lincoln' diocesis excepto archidiacono Leycestr' , cujus officiali scriptum fuit , et archidiacono Lincoln' , pro cujus archidiaconatu scriptum fuit domino Simoni de Wrth' canonico Lincoln' sub forma predicta , addita quadam clausula in littera dicto domino Simoni directa , scilicet ' In quibus omnibus et singulis vobis vices nostras committimus cum coercionis canonice potestate '.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to Simon of Ashby S. Ledger (Esseby Sancti Leodegarii), clerk. Spaldwick, July 7, 1291.

COMMISSIO. Commission to the Archdeacon of Buckingham and to Master Walter of Wootton (Wutton') to visit Tickford priory, which was said to be much in need of reformation. Spaldwick, July 10, 1291.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS. Note of a letter to the dean of Yarborough ordering him to excommunicate all those who prevented the provisions of the will of Lecia wife of Robert de Marays of Great Limber (Magna Limberg') from being put into effect. Spaldwick, July 10, 1291.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Nicholas of Forest Hill (Forsthull'), acolyte, to receive the subdiaconate and diaconate from the Bishop of Winchester. Spaldwick, July 12, 1291.

ABSOLUTIO ROGERI FILII FABRI DE WELLETON'. Note of the absolution of Roger Smith of Welton, who brought letters from the papal penitentiary, from the sentence of excommunication which he had incurred by striking a clerk on the head with an iron bar. Roger swore that he had made satisfactory amends to the wounded man and was given a suitable penance. The vicar of Welton was informed of his absolution. Spaldwick, July 14, 1291.

II idus Julii anno XII apud Spaldewyk' venit Rogerus filius Rogeri Fabri de Welleton' deferens litteras penitenciarum sedis apostolice continentes ipsum a sententia excommunicationis quam incurrerat pro eo quod quemdam clericum cum baculo ferreo in

capite vulneravit esse auctoritate sedis apostolice absolutum , injuncto episcopo quod injungeret dicto Rogero quod leso satisfaceret si non satisfacisset , et quod injungeret eidem Rogero pro commissio penitentiam salutarem . Facta igitur episcopo fide de satisfactione prestita leso per juramentum Rogeri ejusdem , quod quidem juramentum certa de causa sufficere videbatur , injuncta fuit eidem Rogero penitentia salutaris . Et scriptum fuit vicario de Welleton' quod ipsum haberet et haberi faceret taliter absolutum.

[*folio 31*]

PRO ROBERTO DE BAVENT. Note that Robert of Bavent appealed against a sentence of excommunication which he had incurred by beating John Puttok, clerk, and throwing him in the mud at Boston. He had not realised that John, who was brawling and wearing striped clothes, was anything but a layman, but desisted from beating him when he saw his tonsure. The bishop quashed the sentence and wrote to the dean of Holland and the dean of Calcewaith telling them to make an announcement of this fact. Since Robert had to go home, he and his two brothers John and Thomas appointed Thomas of Corby as their proctor to deal with any further matters which might arise. Spaldwick, July 14, 1291.

Venit apud Spaldewyk' II idus Julii anno XII Robertus de Bavent, asserens quod quemdam Johannem Puttok indutum roba stragulata , sibi que convicia inferentem , quem laicum verisimiliter tunc credebat , in lutum ¹in villa Sancti Botulphi¹ proici fecit et verberari , et ex post facto comperiens ipsum Johannem tonsuram gerere clericalem , ulteriorem inferri sibi violenciam non permisit . Et quia quidam de partibus suis hujus facti conscii ipsum reputarunt propter hoc majoris excommunicationis sententia in omnes qui in dictum Johannem clericum manus violentas temere injecerunt promulgata seu pupplicata ut asserunt innodatum , petiit instanter ut episcopus errorem hujusmodi amoveret . Unde prestito a dicto Roberto ad sacra dei evangelia juramento quod prefatum Johannem tempore quo eum in lutum proici fecit et verberari , clericum fuisse penitus ignoravit , et constante sibi de tonsura sua clericali nullam sibi intulit ulterius violenciam nec inferri permisit , factaque prius inquisitione per decanum Hoyland' que assertioni dicti Roberti quoad ipsum concordare videbatur , scriptum fuit decanis de Hoyland et de Calstwath' quod ipsum denunciarent dicta sententia non teneri , salvo in omnibus jure dicti clerici si contra eum vellet experiri . Et quia dictus Robertus erat ut dicebat a patria recessurus , constituit Thomam de Corby procuratorem suum contra dictum Johannem si contingeret ipsum velle agere contra eum , necnon in omnibus causis et negotiis violenciam contingentibus antedictam , dans eidem potestatem agendi , defendendi et omnia alia faciendi

¹ ¹ interlined.

que facere posset si personaliter presens esset . Johannes autem Bavent et Thomas frater suus dicti Roberti germani finaliter constituerunt prefatum Thomam de Corby procuratorem suum in omnibus causis et negotiis ipsos contingentibus ratione violencie memorate cum potestate agendi et defendendi et omnia faciendi que facere possent si personaliter interessent.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS. Note of a sentence of general excommunication against all those infringing the liberties of the church, to be published by the dean of Daventry (Daventr') throughout his deanery, at the request of the prior and convent of Daventry. Spaldwick, July 14, 1291.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Master James of Buckingham (Buck'), rector of the mediety of the church of Beekhampton (Bechamton'), deacon, to receive the priesthood. Spaldwick, July 14, 1291.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to William de Eston,¹ acolyte. Spaldwick, July 15, 1291.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS. Note of a letter to the dean of Gartree, ordering him to warn and if necessary excommunicate all those who stole timber, belonging to the precentor, from a wood at Minting. Spaldwick, July 17, 1291.

XV kalendas Augusti anno XII apud Spaldewyk', suggesto quod quidam ignoti malefactores² de meremio³ precentoris Lincoln' in nemore de Minting' dimisso quadam vice XII ligna et iterum totidem clam surripuissent et temere asportassent , scriptum fuit decano de Geirtre quod dictos presumptores in ecclesiis de quibus per dictum precentorem foret requisitus tribus diebus dominicis intra missarum solempnia per se aut alios publice moneret quod de dicto commissio per restitutionem rei ablata aut alio modo infra XV dies a tempore munitiois hujusmodi satisfaceant ut tenentur . Alioquin eosdem aliis tribus diebus dominicis subsequen-
tibus dum agerentur divina in ecclesiis prefatis in genere solempniter excommunicaret et usque ad satisfactionem condignam excommunicatos esse publice faceret nunciari.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to Hugh of Wallingford (Walineford') living in Clacton, clerk. Granted at Boston, June 16, 1291, and confirmed by letters patent at Spaldwick, July 18, 1291.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation to William of Hampnett (Hamptonette), priest, for having ministered, through ignorance

¹ The modern form of this name might be either ' Aston ' or ' Easton '. Both names occur in the diocese.

² Interlined.

³ Blank in MS.

of canon law, while suspended for contumacy. Granted June 28, 1291 and confirmed by letters patent at Spaldwick July 19, 1291. William was given a penance and a further period of suspension until the feast of S. Peter's chains.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to Luke of Louth (Luda), acolyte. Spaldwick, July 22, 1291.

[*folio 31^v*]

APPELLATIO.¹ Renewed demand of the official of Canterbury that the bishop should compel his official to cite the Abbots of Bourne and Notley to make answer concerning the churches of Colsterworth and Quinton. (Letters given in full.) Sutton replied from Spaldwick on July 20, 1291, that he had already appealed to Rome on the subject. (Letter given in full.) The appeal was reiterated at Spaldwick on July 22, being read aloud by John de Scalleby in the presence of Master John Le Fleming and Master Walter of Wootton, canons of Lincoln, William of Heanor, Robert of Thorpe, Roger of Sixhills, Robert of Kibworth and John of Ferriby, John of Bayton and Hamund Hostiarius. John of Ferriby was given letters of proxy, dated July 22, and told to announce this appeal to the Archbishop of Canterbury and his official.

Memorandum quod pridie idus Julii hora vesperarum anno XII apud Spaldewyk' venit quedam littera officialis curie Cant' sub hac forma : — Reverendo in Christo patri domino O. dei gracia Lincoln' epsicopo² officialis curie Cant' salutem cum reverencia et honore . Nuper vobis mandavimus quod² officiali vestro mandaretis et preciperetis quod mandatum curie Cant' sibi directum de citando abbates de Brunne et de Nuttele quod coram nobis certa die comparerent compotum reddituri de fructibus et obventonibus ecclesiarum de Colstwrth' et de Quenhull' sive Quenton' quarum ecclesiarum vacantium custodiam commiseramus eisdem dum vacarent , pendente questione inter presentatos ad easdem et ad vos in curia Cant' ut licebat de consuetudine hactenus pacifice observata in hujusmodi casibus et optenta , quod qui quidem officialis vester ne mandatum nostrum exequirentur propter prohibitionem quam sibi feceratis se nitebatur excusare ne mandatum nostrum super hoc sibi directum de citando dictos abbates executioni debite demandaret . Sed vos pro vestre voluntatis libito curie Cant' non curantes obedire , hoc facere neglexistis , executionem voluntariam pretendentes , verum quia factum vestrum de prohibitione a vobis sibi facta ignorare non debuistis , et ad hoc saltem implere debuistis ,

¹ The words 'Tangit vacationes ecclesiarum' are written in the margin in a fourteenth-century hand.

² Blank in MS.

nos tamen ad presens vobis deferentes , iterata jussione vobis mandamus et in virtute obediencia qua sedi Cant' tenemini precipimus quod prohibitionem vestram factam dicto officiali revocetis , injungentes eidem quod mandatum nostrum predictum non obstante prohibitione vestra studeat executioni demandare , et predictos abbates citet quod compareant certa die compotum redituri , et de executione mandati nostri , de revocatione prohibitionis vestre , et de injunctione sibi facta quod mandatum nostrum exequatur , nos reddatis distincte et aperte certiores citra festum Sancti Jacobi proxime venturum per litteras vestras patentes harum seriem continentes . Alioquin ulterius dissimilare non poterimus quin contra vos tanquam inobedientem curie Cant' procedamus , quantum dictaverit ordo juris . Valeat paternitas vestra per tempora longa . Datum in festo translationis Sancti Thome martiris , anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo . — Et postmodum XIII Kalendas Augusti apud Spaldewyk' certificatum fuit sub hac forma : — Venerabili viro domino¹ officiali curie Cant', Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus salutem et reverenciam cum honore . Litteras vestras sub tenore recepimus infra-scripto : — Reverendo in Christo patri , etc , ut supra proximo . Sane cum vacantibus ecclesiis nostre diocesis deputare seu ponere yconomos seu custodes ad percipiendum fructus et obventiones ecclesiarum hujusmodi , et de eis prout justum fuerit disponendi , ipsarum vacatione durante , etiam si inter presentantes et presentatum ad easdem ecclesias et nos super eis in curia Cant' questio ventiletur , ad nos et episcopum Lincoln' qui pro tempore fuerit de jure et antiqua et approbata consuetudine hactenus observata pertinere noscatur , et non ad dominum archiepiscopum Cant' seu ejus officialem , nisi id in aliquo casu fortassis ad eos devolvi contiguerit , quorum nullus in mandatis exprimitur suprascriptis , nos a prefatis mandatis vestris tam nobis quam officiali nostro directis , que absque gravi prejudicio juris nostri et ecclesie ac capituli Lincoln' precipue per nos vel officialem nostrum non possint executioni mandari , et gravaminibus in mandatis hujusmodi comprehensis ad sedem apostolicam duximus appellandum , sedem eandem ne dominus¹ archiepiscopus Cant' seu vos seu quivis alius vel alii auctoritate vestra seu alterutrius vestrum vel alia auctoritate quacumque precipiendo , mandando , statuendo , diffiniendo , sequestrando , suspendendo , interdicando , excommunicando , denunciando aut alio quovismodo occasione mandatorum dictorum seu alia quicquam in prejudicium nostri et ecclesie ac capituli Lincoln' , abbatum , archidiaconorum et quorumcumque subditorum nostrorum et specialiter officialis nostri , necnon nobis adherentium , faceretis seu facerent aliququaliter attemptari nichilominus provocantes . Cum igitur dictorum executio mandatorum nobis per vos ut premittitur dictorum in juris injuriam et grave

¹ Blank in MS.

prejudicium juris nostre ac ecclesie et capituli Lincoln', abbatum , archidiaconorum , et aliorum subditorum nostrorum necnon appellationumstrarum quibus inviti volumus redundaret , et nos per appellationes nostras a jurisdictione vestra super contentis in eisdem mandatis et ea contingentibus eximamur , ipsa mandata exequi non tenemur , nec ad id poterimus de jure compelli . Parere tamen curie Cant' mandatis canonicis fuimus et erimus per obedienciam semper prompti , quod vobis debet sufficere et quibuscumque sequi volentibus iudicium rationis . Valete . Datum apud Spaldewyk' , XIII kalendas Augusti anno domini supradicto : — Et subsequenter XI kalendas Augusti proxime sequente similiter apud Spaldewyk' appellavit episcopus sub hac forma :¹ — [*folio 32*]. In dei nomine amen . Licet vacantibus ecclesiis Lincoln' diocesis deputare seu ponere yconomos seu custodes ad percipiendum fructus et obventiones ecclesiarum hujusmodi ipsarum vacatione durante , etiam si inter presentatum et presentantes ad easdem ecclesias et nos Lincoln' episcopum super eis in curia Cant' questio ventiletur ad nos et episcopum Lincoln' qui pro tempore fuerit de jure et antiqua et approbata consuetudine hactenus observata pertinere noscatur , et non ad dominum archiepiscopum Cant' seu ejus officialem nisi id in aliquo casu fortassis ad eos devolvi contingerit , officialis tamen curie Cant' primo sub pena districtiois canonice et postmodum sub pena excommunicationis² officiali nostro mandavit quod citaret abbates de Brunne et de Nuttele ad reddendum compotum coram eo de fructibus et obventionibus ecclesiarum de Colstwrth' et de Quenhill' sive Quenton nostre diocesis pro tempore quo vacarunt , et sibi de hujusmodi fructibus et obventionibus respondendum in casu quo nullo modo spectabat ad dominum archiepiscopum Cant' seu ejus officialem de eisdem fructibus et obventionibus aliquialiter ordinare . Nos igitur advertentes dictum mandatum officiali nostro primo directum in juris nostri , ecclesie et capituli Lincoln' grave prejudicium redundare , sentientesque ex mandato eodem indebite nos gravari , ab ipso mandato ad sedem apostolicam legitime duximus appellandum , et postmodum nos et capitulum nostrum Lincoln' necnon officialis noster a prescripto mandato eidem secundo directo solempniter appellavimus , ne dominus archiepiscopus Cant' seu ejus officialis vel alius seu alii occasione premissa vel alia quicquam in nostri prejudicium faceret seu facerent aliquialiter attemptari , dictam sedem sub certa forma nichilominus provocando . Sane officialis Cant' spretis hujusmodi appellationibus et provocationibus in ejus presencia interjectis , ut preciperemus et injungeremus officiali nostro quod citaret prefatos abbates ad reddendum compotum de fructibus et obventionibus ecclesiarum dictarum juxta priorum mandatorum tenorem , nosque a mandato hujusmodi injurioso ac in nostri et

¹ The words 'Appellatio episcopi Lincoln', are written in the margin in a fourteenth-century hand.

² Blank in MS.

ecclesie Lincoln' prejudicium redundante , ad sedem apostolicam legitime duximus appellandum et etiam provocandum . Set¹² officialis curie Cant' dictis appellationibus et provocationibus ab eo legitime interjectis omnino contemptis , nobis per litteras iterato precipiendo mandavit , ut injungeremus officiali nostro quod dictum mandatum ejusdem officialis Cant' sibi directum executioni mandaret et predictos abbates citaret ut compareant coram eo certa die compotum reddituri , prout in litteris subscripti tenoris plenius continetur : — ' Reverendo in Christo patri domino O. dei gracia ' , etc , ut supra in principio hujus aperture . Cum igitur ad executionem mandati hujusmodi que in juris injuriam et grave prejudicium juris nostri ac ecclesie et capituli Lincoln' , abbatum , archidiaconorum et aliorum subditorum nostrorum quibus inviti volumus cum effectu , notorie redundaret , minime teneamur , sentientes nos ex ipso mandato et gravaminibus in eo complexis indebite pregavari , pro nobis , ecclesia et capitulo Lincoln' , abbatibus , archidiaconis et officiali nostris , ac subditis quibuscumque et cunctis nobis adherentibus sedem apostolicam appellamus et apostolos petimus . Et ne dominus archiepiscopus Cant' vel ejus officialis seu quivis alius seu alii auctoritate sua seu alterius eorundem , vel alia auctoritate quacumque precipiendo , mandando , statuendo , diffiniendo , sequestrando , suspendendo , interdicens , excommunicando , denunciando , seu alio quovismode occasione mandatorum dictorum seu alia quicquam in prejudicium nostri et ecclesie ac capituli Lincoln' , abbatum , archidiaconorum , et quorumcumque subditorum nostrorum necnon nobis adherentium faciat seu faciant aliquamvis attemptari , ad dictam sedem apostolicam adhuc iterum provocamus , subicientes nos , ecclesiam et capitulum Lincoln' , abbates , archidiaconos et quoscumque subditos nostros et specialiter officialem nostrum , necnon omnes nobis adherentes et bona nostra quecumque protectioni sedis ejusdem , nosque velle coram domino archiepiscopo Cant' et ejus officiale ac aliis prout visum fuerit , has nostras appellationem et provocationem innovare et apostolos petere cum comode ipsius copia haberi poterit protestantes . — Facta fuit ista appellatio per Johannem de Scalleby presbiterum in cujus ore episcopus posuit verba sua , presentibus magistris J. le Flemeng , W. de Wutton' canonicis Lincoln' , dominis W. de Henovere , R. de Thorp' , R. de Sixil' , R. de Kibbewrth' ac Johanne de Feriby clerico , Johanne de Bayton' et Hamundo Hostiario . Et eadem die habuit Johannes de Feriby predictus quoddam procuratorium ad notificandum appellationem predictam domino archiepiscopo Cant' et ejus officiali , sub data XI kalendas Augusti , anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo , et sub forma generali in primo folio hujus quaterni contenta , nomine tamen procuratoris tantum mutato.³

¹ Sic, recte ' sed '.

² Blank in MS.

³ A line of ornamental scroll-work, drawn in ink, ends this folio.

[*folio 32^v*]

PRO ANIMA REGINE. To all the archdeacons of the diocese or their officials, telling them to arrange for prayers to be said throughout their archdeaconries for the soul of Eleanor of Provence the Queen-mother, although the extreme devotion of her latter years might suggest that her time in purgatory would be short. The archdeacons and officials were to report to the bishop. Spaldwick, July 24, 1291.

O. permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilectis in Christo filiis universis archidiaconis per Lincoln' diocesem constitutis vel eorum officialibus salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Ad vestram jam noticiam credimus pervenisse quod mors persecutrix nature nulli deferens dignitati , clare memorie quondam dominam Alienoram Reginam Anglie , domini nostri regis excellentissimi genitricem , ab hoc seculo subtrahendo , totam Angliam eo gravius sauciavit , quo dum hac luce transitoria fingebatur cunctis quandocumque tribulatione depressis studiosius subvenire curavit . Verum licet humano iudicio nostris non videatur orationibus indigere que juxta doctrinam evangelicam per contemptum mundalium et etiam sui ipsius , dum spretis regalibus indumentis sub habitu regulari claustro se committere non expavit , obediencie jugo inibi se subdendo , parum ante habens imperium in toto regno , dominum altissimum est secuta , quia tamen quo deveniunt anime a corporibus separate non est humani arbitrii diffinire , expedit pro ea preces fundere summo regi , ut si eam secum collocaverit in celis que sibi fideliter famulabatur in terris , quod verisimiliter est credendum , graciaram actiones sint autem propitiationes pro ea et aliis in purgatorio laborantes habeantur . Quocirca vobis firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus visis presentibus cum omni celeritate qua potestis in omnibus monasteriis , conventualibus ecclesiis , locis religiosis ac parochialibus ecclesiis vestrorum archidiaconatuum universis cum earum capellis pro anima domine regine predictae missarum solemnia cum officio pro defunctis et aliis orationum ac beneficiorum suffragiis celebrari et fieri faciatis . Et quid super hiis duxeritis faciendum , nobis oportuno tempore plenius rescribatis . Valet . Datum apud Spaldewyk' IX kalendas Augusti , pontificatus nostri anno duodecimo.

CONTRA MONIALES FUGITIVAS. To the Archdeacons of Buckingham and Oxford or their officials, ordering them to excommunicate Agnes of Sheen, Joan Cart and a kinswoman of Ela countess of Warwick, nuns who had run away from Godstow, together with anyone helping or sheltering them. The excommunications were to be published throughout the archdeaconries, and the archdeacons were to report to the bishop. Spaldwick, July 25, 1291.

O. permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilectis in Christo filiis Buck' et Oxon' archidiaconis vel eorum officialibus salutem , etc . Ex frequenti insinuatione clamosa pulsante simul rei evidenciam quod non sine cordis amaritudine referimus , nostris est auribus inculcatum quod Agnes de Schene ac Johanna de Carru , necnon et quedam consanguinea domine Ele comitisse Warewyk' , de cujus nomine non recordamur ad presens , moniales professe monasterii de Godestowe , nunc diabolica suggestionem illecte et sic decepte , actu et habitu religionis abjectis , exeuntes per fugam claustrum et domum vite , mundique vanitatibus illecebrosis se dampnabiliter involventes , vitam agunt non sine gravi periculo animarum suarum et vehementi scandalo populi enormiter in mundo mundialiter dissolutam , que res de manifesto per rei evidenciam transiens in notorium , totius vicine populum hujus rei nepharie testem fecit . Cum itaque pie compatientes eisdem et usque modo diutius expectantes , cum quadam supportatione benigna si forsitan ipse Christi derelictis ex amaritudine animarum propriarum adicere vellent ut resurgerent a commissis , nichil omnino de conversione sua invenerimus , set¹ nec spem conceperimus que delectet , attendentes etiam cautum in jure , quod ferro abscindenda sunt vulnera que fomentorum non sentiunt disciplinam , vobis districtis precipiendo mandamus quatinus prefatas Agnetem et Johannam ac prefate comitisse consanguineam cum de ipsius nomine vobis quoquomodo constiterit moniales fugitivas esse , apostatas , et usque ad reditum suum et satisfactionem congruam majori excommunicatione a jure innodatas et omni confusione dignas una cum omnibus aliis consilium , auxilium vel favorem sibi prestantibus in crimine sic dampnato , palam in predicto monasterio de Godestowe necnon et in omnibus aliis locis religiosis et parochialibus ecclesiis dictatione vestre subditis , singulis diebus dominicis et festivis intra missarum sollempnia sollempniter et publice nunciatis seu nunciari per alios faciatis , donec super hoc a nobis aliud receperitis in mandatis . Et quid super hiis feceritis , nos litteris vestris patentibus harum seriem continentibus certiores reddatis tempore oportuno . Valet . Datum apud Spaldewyk' VIII kalendas Augusti , anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo et pontificatus nostri duodecimo .

LITTERA QUESTUARIA. To the dean and chapter of Lincoln and to all the Archdeacons and their officials throughout the diocese, telling them, on the instructions of Archbishop Pecham, not to interfere with an annual collection of alms for the hospital of S. Jacopo d'Altopascio in the diocese of Lucca, which had been expressly exempted by Pope Nicholas IV from his prohibition of the collection of alms by religious houses. The privilege was to last for three years, and the clergy of each deanery might be called

¹ Sic, recte 'sed'.

together once a year to have the good cause explained to them, but the building-fund for the cathedral was not to suffer loss through this almsgiving. Spaldwick, July 27, 1291.

O. etc , decano et capitulo ecclesie nostre Lincoln' , necnon universis archidiaconis per Lincoln' diocesem constitutis et eorum officialibus salutem , etc . Licet sanctissimus pater dominus Nicholaus papa quartus universis et singulis religiosis ordinibus , hospitalibus et domorum dei magistris et fratribus cujuscumque conditionis vel ordinis questus omnes exercitium nuper interdixisset omnino , quolibet privilegia , indulgencias et litteras cujuscumque tenoris existerent eis ab apostolica sede vel ejus legatis aut aliis quibuscumque concessa quoad questum hujusmodi faciendum per suas litteras revocando , et nullius esse firmitatis similiter decernendo , magistro tamen et fratribus hospitalis Sancti Jacobi de alto passu Lucan' diocesis volens graciam facere specialem , decrevit quod per interdictum et revocationem hujusmodi vel earum occasione sibi et hospitali predicto in quibus sustentantur pauperes et infirmi nullum prejudicium affertur , quin libere ac sine cujusquam contrarietatis objectu possent petere ac recipere ad opus infirmorum et pauperum predictorum elemosinas et alia quolibet caritatis subsidia que eis pia fidelium devotio exhiberet prout in ipsius domini pape litteris nobis ostensis vidimus plenius contineri . Nos igitur venerabilis patris domini Johannis dei gracia Cant' archiepiscopi totius Anglie primatis litteris excitati , vobis mandamus quatinus cum fratres seu nuncii hospitalis predicti ad vos venerint pro fidelium [*folio 33*] elemosinis colligendis ad opus infirmorum et pauperum predictorum , eos juxta forma privilegiorum dictis magistro et fratribus a sede apostolica concessorum benignius admittentes , ipsorum negotium per locorum presbiteros diebus dominicis seu festivis intra missarum solemnia dummodo veri fuerint fratres seu nuncii eorundem semel in anno absque predicatione aliqua faciatis patenter exponi , et quod collatum fuerit eisdem integraliter liberari , proviso quod hujusmodi fratres seu nuncii convocationes non faciant , quodque negotium fabrice ecclesie nostre Lincoln' per hoc minime perturbetur . Sustinemus autem quod pro exponendis dicti hospitalis negotiis ad unum locum singulorum decanatum presbiteros convocetis , presentibus post triennium minime valituris . Valete , Datum apud Spaldewyk' VI kalendas Augusti anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo et pontificatus nostri duodecimo.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation to William of Rothley (Rothele), priest, for having been ordained in Italy without letters dimissory and in ignorance of the papal decree against the ordination of clergy from northern Europe by Italian bishops, and for ministering in orders thus received without a dispensation. After penance and

a period of suspension, William was to minister in his orders so long as he behaved well and his bodily infirmity did not expose his ministrations to derision. He was to have no cure of souls. Spaldwick, July 31, 1291.

PRO HOSPITALARIIS. Note of a letter, in the same form as that previously sent,¹ telling the archdeacons of the diocese or their officials not to collect tenths for the King from the churches appropriated to the Hospitallers until the following Michaelmas. Spaldwick, July 31, 1291.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS PRO PARCIS. To the Archdeacons of Leicester, Huntingdon and Stow or their officials, and to the dean of Rutland, telling them to warn and if necessary excommunicate all poachers who had broken into the bishop's parks at Buckden, Liddington and Stow, and to report to the bishop. Spaldwick, August 1, 1291.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilectis in Christo filiis² Leycestr',² Hunt' et² Stowe archidiaconis vel eorum officialibus salutem , graciam et benedictionem . Antiqui patres sacrorum canonum conditores videntes filios matris sue ecclesie sacrosancte in tantum degeneres quod in eam insurgentes jura sua ac libertates sibi auferendo ac perturbando ipsam persequi minime formidabant , presumentesque plures processu temporis sibi consimiles nascituros , provide statuerunt vel saltem suis permisere statutis , quod omnes et singuli episcopi et superiores prelati contra hujusmodi degeneres judicalem indaginem assumentes , ecclesiarum suarum injurias vindicarent . Sane si tanto beneficio nobis inter alios concessio perfrui non curantes , contra injuratos sponse nostre Lincoln' ecclesie et maliciosos libertatem ejus impugnatores quatinus possumus minime procedamus , timendum nobis est ne de negligencia in districto judicio arguamur . Quia igitur ad aures nostras ex quorundam ministrorum nostrorum relatione pervenit quod quidam iniquitatis filii persone quorum et nomina ignorantur saltuum seu parcorum nostrorum de Buckeden' , de Lidington' et de Stowa sepes et clausuras transeuntes furtive in animalibus nostris saltibus in eisdem inclusis et aliter gravia dampna multipliciter commiserunt , in grave animarum suarum periculum ac nostrum et ecclesie nostre predictae prejudicium non modicum et gravamen , vobis omnibus et singulis firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus tribus diebus dominicis seu festivis receptioni presentium proxime subsequentibus , trina monitione generali premissa pro congrua tanti contemptus et dampni satisfactione prestanda , ex tunc omnes predictos contemptores et dampnificatores qui parcos predictos hactenus sunt ingressi

¹ See above, pp. 109-110.

² Blank in MS.

et imposterum maliciose ingredientur et furtive , septem diebus dominicis in omnibus ecclesiis infra quatuor leucas prefatis saltibus vel parvis undique vicinis solempniter et puplice , pulsatis campanis , candelis accensis , per vos vel alios excommunicare in genere non tardetis . Et quid super premissis feceritis nos oportune tempore rescribatis per litteras vestras patentibus harum seriem continentes .
 Valet . Datum apud Spaldewyk' , kalendis Augusti , anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo et pontificatus nostri XII . Et sub eadem forma scriptum fuit¹ decano Roteland'.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation, with a penance, to William of Gaddesby, priest, for having been ordained to the subdiaconate and diaconate by the Archbishop of Dublin and to the priesthood by the bishop of Leighlin without letters dimissory, and for having ministered in orders thus obtained without a dispensation. Spaldwick, August 7, 1291.

[folio 33^v]

LITTERA PRO VISITATIONE CAPITULI LINCOLN'. To the dean and chapter of Lincoln, announcing the bishop's intention to visit them on October 1, since he had carried out only one visitation since his consecration. Spaldwick, August 7, 1291.

DISPENSATIO DOMINI WILLELMI DE HOLECOTE. Note of a papal dispensation to William of Holcot, rector of Catworth, to hold one other living in plurality. This letter was re-issued by the bishop under his great seal. Spaldwick, August 8, 1291.

VI idus Augusti anno XII apud Spaldewyk' exhibita fuit per dominum Willelmum de Holecote quedam bulla sub hac forma : —
 Nicholaus episcopus , servus servorum dei , dilecto filio Willelmo de Holecote rectori ecclesie de Cattwrth' Lincoln' diocesis salutem et apostolicam benedictionem . Super familiam domini constituti ut demus illius cibum in tempore , credite nobis dispensationis officium officiose nos gerere arbitramur dum personas benemeritas juxta suorum meritorum exigenciam gracia prosequimur ampliori . Pensat enim apostolica sedes donum sciencie , vite munditiam , aliaque merita in subjectis , et circa eos qui majoribus virtutibus enitescent virtutum dona munificencie largitate compensat , et interdum gravitatem oneris honore relevat concedenti . Eapropter , dilecte in domino fili , litterarum scienciam aliaque merita probitatis quibus juvari diceris attendentes , auctoritate tibi presentium indulgemus ut preter ecclesiam de Cattewrth' Lincoln' diocesis quam curam animarum habentem te proponis canonice assecutum possis adhuc unicum alium beneficium ecclesiasticum , etiam si similem curam habeat et tibi canonice offeratur , licite recipere et

¹ Blank in MS.

cum eadem ecclesia libere retinere , generalis concilii seu qualibet alia constitutione contraria non obstante , proviso quod eadem ecclesia et beneficium hujusmodi debitis non fraudetur , obsequiis et animarum cura in eis nullatenus negligatur . Nulli ergo omnino hominum , etc . Si quis vero , etc . Datum apud Urbem Veterem VI nonas Maii pontificatus nostri anno quarto . — Et habuit dictus dominus Willelmus litteram hujusmodi exemplificatam sub magno sigillo episcopi.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to Henry of Smeaton (Smethton'), clerk, son of a subdeacon and an unmarried woman. Spaldwick, August 8, 1291.

LITTERA CAUTIONALES.¹ Note that John Herneys, coming from Rome, brought seven pairs of letters of security, three for Master Andrew of S. Alban's rector of Garsington (Gersindon'), two for Henry Tilli rector of Lillingstone (Lillingston') and two for Master Richard of Ware rector of Oakham, and that they were deposited with the others. Spaldwick, August 8, 1291.

COMMISSIO. Commission to Master Clement of Leake (Lek') to discharge Margery widow of Richard son of Master Brice of Leake and her fellow executors of the will of the said Richard, and to report to the bishop. Spaldwick, August 10, 1291.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS. Note of a letter to the dean of Framland, telling him to warn and if necessary excommunicate all those who had stolen and hidden goods belonging to the late Master Thomas of Melton, rector of Ab Kettleby (Kettelby Abbatis). If he could discover the names of any of the malefactors he was to cite them to appear before the bishop. Spaldwick, August 11, 1291.

[folio 34]

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to William of Harby (Herdeby), clerk. Spaldwick, August 11, 1291.

PRO VICARIO DE WENDOVERE. To the dean of Wendover, ordering him to sequester the tithe of the third part of the corn of Wendover, which was stored in the churchyard during a dispute about it between the vicar of Wendover and the prior and convent of Southwark, who had appropriated the church. The sequestration was to be made because some unauthorised persons had been trying to thresh the corn. Spaldwick, August 15, 1291.

O. etc , decano de Wendovere etc . Ad nostram auditiam jam pervenit quod quidam² vicario ecclesie de Wendovere certa ratione suspecti , decimam tertie partis garbarum ville de Wendovere

¹ Drawing of a hand in the margin.

² Blank in MS.

de anno preterito propter contentionem inter ipsum vicarium ac¹ priorem et conventum de Suthwerk' eandem ecclesiam de Wendovere in usus proprios possidentes super eisdem decimis exortam , in cimiterio ejusdem ecclesie de Wendovere de consensu utriusque partis repositam sub sequestro donec discutiatur judicialiter inter eos ad quam deberet pertinere de jure , nituntur in dicti vicarii prejudicium triturare , lite inter ipsum et dictos¹ priorem et conventum indecisa pendente . Volentes igitur prefato vicario viis quibus possumus providere , ne quod bona fide factum est in ipsius redundare valeat lesionem , vobis firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus decimam predictam sequestretis et sub arto custodiatis sequestro ita quod nullus ad eam manum apponat , donec a nobis aliud habueritis in mandatum , contradictores vobis et rebelles in hac parte per censuram ecclesiasticam canonice compellentes . Datum apud Spaldewyk XVIII kalendas Septembris , anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo.

BENEDICTIO ABBATIS. Note of the formal benediction of Ralph, abbot of Louth Park, with his oath of canonical obedience. Spaldwick, August 15, 1291.

LITTERA ABSOLUTORIA AB ADMINISTRATIONE. Letters patent certifying that John rector of S. Benedict's, Huntingdon, who had been coadjutor to Ivo rector of Broughton during his illness, had been examined and discharged honourably by the dean of Huntingdon and the vicar of S. Mary's in the same town. He was therefore quit-claimed, and the sum of five shillings and fourpence remaining from Ivo's estate was given to him for his pains. The findings of the examiners were kept among the records of wills. Spaldwick, August 16, 1291.

Universis pateat per presentes quod nos Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus ratiocinia administrationis Johannis rectoris ecclesie Sancti Benedicti Huntingdon' in bonis quondam Ivonis rectoris ecclesie de Brocton' pro tempore quo ipsius Ivonis utpote impotentis ex deputatione nostra curam gessit , per dilectos in Christo filios decanum Huntingdon' et vicarium ecclesie Beate Marie ejusdem facientes audiri , quia per certificatorium decani et vicarii eorundem invenimus prefatum Johannem bene et fideliter in bonis administrasse predictis , ipsum ab administratione et cura predictis absolvimus per presentes , quinque solidos et quatuor denarios qui de bonis predictis supersint et in ipsius Johannis manibus ex injunctione dictorum commissariorum nostrorum donec de eisdem per nos ordinatum fuerit retinentur , pro suis laboribus in hac parte sibi plenius remittentes . Datum apud Spaldewyk' XVII kalendas Septembris , anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo .

¹ Blank in MS.

Et est sciendum quod certificatorium de quo littera facit mentionem residet inter compota testamentorum.

DISPENSATIO MAGISTRI GILBERTI DE SEGRAVE. Dispensation to Master Gilbert of Seagrave, rector of Harlaxton, to hold one other benefice in plurality provided that the cure of souls were not neglected. This dispensation was granted in accordance with a papal dispensation (quoted in full) which Master Gilbert had already received. Spaldwick, August 18, 1291.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilecto in Christo filio magistro Gilberto de Segrave, rectori ecclesie de Herlauston' nostre diocesis salutem, etc. Exhibitas nobis ex parte tua litteras sanctissimi patris domini Nicholai pape quarti recepinus in hec verba: — Nicholaus episcopus servus servorum dei venerabili fratri episcopo Lincoln' salutem et apostolicam benedictionem. Virtutum merita quibus dilectus filius magister Gilbertus de Segrave rector ecclesie de Herlauston' vestre diocesis insignitus, benigna consideratione pensantes, libenter sibi apostolici favoris impartimur auxilium, ipsumque prosequimur dono gracie specialis per quod sibi honoris et fame preveniat incrementum. Exhibita siquidem nobis ipsius magistri petitio continebat quod fructus, redditus et proventus ipsius ecclesie sunt adeo tenues et exiles quod ipse qui diu in artibus et in facultate theologica studuit, et in eis per dei gratiam dinoscitur laudabiliter profecisse, non potest ex eis secundum persone sue statum comode¹ sustentari. Quare supliciter¹ petebat a nobis ut secum quod preter dictam ecclesiam curam animarum habentem unicum aliud ecclesiasticum beneficium etiam si similem curam habeat ac dignitas vel personatus existat, si sibi canonice offeratur, libere recipere valeat et una cum predicta ecclesia licite retinere dispensare misericorditer dignaremur. Nos itaque probitatem ipsius magistri diligencius attendentes, et volentes preterea personam suam prosequi graciose, gerentes quoque de circumspectione tua fiduciam in domino specialem, fraternitate tue presentium auctoritate committimus et mandamus quatinus veris existentibus supradictis, cum eodem magistro quod preter ecclesiam supradictam unicum aliud ecclesiasticum beneficium, etiam si similis cura illi imineat, et dignitas vel personatus existat, et sibi canonice offeratur, libere recipere valeat, et cum prefata ecclesia licite retinere auctoritate nostra dispenses prout secundum deum videris expedire, constitutione generalis concilii sive qualibet alia contraria super hoc edita non obstante, proviso quod predicta ecclesia et hujusmodi beneficium, personatus seu dignitas debitis obsequiis non fraudentur, et animarum cura in eis quibus illa iminet nullatenus negligatur. Datum apud Urbem Veterem III nonas Februarii, pontificatus nostri anno tertio. — Nos igitur facta fide

¹ Sic.

de hiis que in predictis litteris suggeruntur , ut preter dictam ecclesiam curam animarum habentem unicum aliud ecclesiasticum beneficium etiam si similem curam habeat ac dignitas vel personatus existat si tibi canonice offeratur , libere recipere valeas et una cum predicta ecclesia retinere auctoritate nobis in hac parte commissa tecum tenore presentium dispensamus . Ita tamen quod prefata ecclesia et hujusmodi beneficium , personatus seu dignitas debitis non fraudentur obsequiis et animarum cura in eis quibus illa iminet nullatenus negligatur . In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum . Actum et datum apud Spaldewyk' XV kalendas Septembris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo et pontificatus nostri duodecimo.

[folio 34^v]

PRO RECTORE ECCLESIE SANCTI PETRI DE BERKHAMSTED'. To the dean of Berkhamstead and William rector of Langley, ordering them to collect the garb tithes from the parish of S. Peter's, Berkhamstead, put them in the barn of John of Rede the rector, and sequesterate them carefully, warning and if necessary excommunicating anyone who opposed the proceedings, and to report to the bishop. This sequestration was made necessary by a quarrel between John of Rede on the one hand and the servants of the Earl of Cornwall and the parishioners of S. Peter's on the other, in the course of which the rector had been prevented from collecting his tithes. Spaldwick, August 18, 1291.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilectis in Christo filiis¹ decano de Berkhamsted' et domino Willelmo rectori ecclesie de Langele salutem etc . Cure episcopis debet esse ne ecclesie quarum rectores eas regere minus possunt suis juribus defraudentur , et bona victui pauperum deputata pereant seu aliis usibus applicentur , vel per maliciam hominum consumantur . Sane contentio seu discordia inter dominum Johannem de Reda rectorem ecclesie Beati Petri de Berkhamsted' ex parte una et ministros nobilis viri domini comitis Cornubie , ac parochianos ejusdem ecclesie , ex altera , tanta est et sic effrenata quod decimas majores separatas a solo ad dictam ecclesiam notorie pertinentes , eundem rectorem percipere , et ad orrea sua cariare non sinunt , sed equos et caretas ad querendum seu cariandum hujusmodi decimas per dictum Robertum² provisos capiunt seu capi faciunt , captosque detinent , in animarum suarum periculum , ecclesie predictae et sui rectoris prejudicium ac scandalum plurimorum , imponentes memorato Johanni quod erga dictum dominum comitem , sibi sua jure subtrahendo et se et suos contempnendo deliquit . Cum igitur delictum persone non debeat in dampnum ecclesie redundare , nec etiam hujusmodi contentionis cognitionem vel

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² Sic.

decisionem poterit expectare , dictarum collectio decimarum que medio sunt tempore pariture , vobis conjunctim et divisim firmiter injundendo mandamus quatinus omnimodas majores decimas ad prefatam ecclesiam Sancti Petri spectantes per vos vel per alios auctoritate nostra faciatis colligi , collectas in orreis rectorie reponi , sic repositos sequestrari , et sub arto sequestro custodiri , donec de eisdem duxerimus disponendum . Si quos vero vobis in hac parte inveneritis resistentes , si eorum nomina notoria fuerunt et delicta , ipsos nominatim , alioquin in genere , cum suis auctoribus et fautoribus in singulis ecclesiis decanatus de Berkhamsted' singulis diebus dominicis et festivis citra festum Beati Michalis intra missarum solempnia , pulsatis campanis , candelis accensis , canonica monitione premissa excommunicetis seu excommunicari solempniter faciatis . Et quid super hiis feceritis , nos per litteras vestras patentes harum seriem et processum vestrum distincte et aperte continentes , certificetis tempore oportuno . Datum apud Spaldewyk' XV kalendas Septembris , anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo et pontificatus nostri terdecimo.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS. Note of a sentence of excommunication, to be published by the official of the Archdeacon of Leicester or by the dean of Guthlaxton, upon all those who had assaulted Alan the servant of the rector of Knaptoft. Spaldwick, August 20, 1291.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS. Note of a sentence of excommunication, to be published in the churches of Newton (Neuton') and Willoughton (Wylgton') and any others which seemed suitable, by the Archdeacon of Lincoln and Stow or their officials, upon all those who maliciously prevented the will of William Curnes of Willoughton from being put into effect. Spaldwick, August 22, 1291.

COMMISSIO. Commission to Robert of Burton, sequestrator, to discharge the executors of Master Richard of Fulstow (Fulestowe) rector of Wyham (Wyhum). Spaldwick, August 22, 1291.

CONFIRMATIO CESSIONIS MESUAGII ADE DE HUNIDEN' IN HUNTINGDON'. Inspeximus of the grant of a plot of land in Huntingdon, made by Roger of Drayton, rector of All Saints', with the consent of the abbot and convent of Thorney and the prior and convent of S. Mary, Huntingdon, to Adam of Hundon, tanner, and Lucy his wife and their heirs and assigns. Spaldwick, August 22, 1291.

Universis pateat per presentes quod nos Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus donationem et concessionem factas Ade de Huniden' tannatori et Lucie uxori sue ac eorum heredibus et assignatis per Rogerum de Drayton' rectorem ecclesie Omnium Sanctorum apud Hunt' de quadam platea terre non edificata cum

pertinenciis inter mesuagium dicti Ade ex parte una et tenementum Willelmi dicti Parvi ex altera , in parochia ecclesie supradicte , quod certis redditibus annuis domino regi ac sibi et successoribus suis ecclesie memorate solvendis certis terminis anni in carta prefati Rogeri super hujusmodi donatione confecta , quam inspeximus , designatis , abbatis et conventus de Thorneye ac etiam prioris et conventus canonicorum Beate Marie Hunt' patronorum ejusdem ecclesie concurrente consensu , ratas habemus , approbamus et auctoritate pontificali quantum in nobis est confirmamus . In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum ad devotam instanciam dicti Ade presentibus est appensum . Datum apud Spaldewyk' XI kalendas Septembris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation to William of Hitchin (Hich'), priest, for having received all holy orders from the Bishop of Whithorn without letters dimissory, and for having ministered in them without a dispensation. He was to be allowed to minister for one year from the forthcoming Michaelmas without cure of souls, and afterwards to have a cure, if he wished, provided that he behaved himself. Spaldwick, August 23, 1291.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Peter Snowe of Stonely (Stonle), acolyte, to receive all holy orders. Spaldwick, August 25, 1291.

[folio 35]

COMMISSIO. Commission to the Archdeacon of Buckingham and Master Walter of Wootton (Wutton'), telling them to finish carrying out all necessary reforms which they had begun in their visitation of the priory of Newport Pagnell.¹ Spaldwick, August 25, 1291.

COMMISSIO. Commission to the Prior of Newnham near Bedford and to Master Ralph rector of Maldon, to discharge the executors of the will of John of Stradbroke (Stradebrok'). Biggleswade, August 27, 1291.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation to Robert of Walton, priest, for being ordained to all holy orders in Ireland without letters dimissory, and for ministering in orders thus received without a dispensation. He was given a penance and allowed to minister without cure of souls. Biggleswade. August 27, 1291.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation, in the same terms as the last, to John of Walton, priest. After one year he was to come back for

¹ *Sic.* For 'Tickford near Newport Pagnell'? See above, p. 125.

an examination of his progress in learning, since the bishop wanted to promote him if possible. Biggleswade, August 27, 1291.

INDULGENCIA. Grant of ten days' indulgence to all confessed and contrite persons who should pray in the church at Spaldwick on the anniversary of its dedication, October 1. Ardley, August 28, 1291.

Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus salutem in omnium salvatore. De dei omnipotentis misericordia, gloriosissime virginis, Beati Hugonis confessoris et omnium sanctorum meritis confidentes, omnibus parochianis nostris et aliis quorum diocesani hanc nostram indulgenciam ratificarint, de peccatis suis vere penitentibus et confessis, qui ad ecclesiam de Spaldwyk' nostre diocesis in qua mensam majorem in honore beati Jacobi apostoli die Lune ante festum assumptionis virginis antedie anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo nostro curavimus ministerio consecrare, die dedicationis ejusdem ecclesie, videlicet kalendis Octobris, causa devotionis accesserint pro sua et omnium fidelium tam vivorum quam defunctorum oraturi salute, decem dies de injuncta sibi penitencia misericorditer relaxamus. In cujus rei testimonium, etc. Datum apud Erdeleye, quinto kalendas Septembris anno domini supradicto.

COMMISSIO AD EXIGENDUM CLERICUM INCARCERATUM. Letters patent announcing that the bishop had issued a commission to the dean of Peterborough and the rector of Paston to claim Gilbert of Eaton (Eton'), a clerk who was in the secular prison at Peterborough, for the church's jurisdiction. Ardley, August 28, 1291.

CESSIO PRIORISSE DE ROUNEYE. Note of the resignation of Agnes of London (Lond'), prioress of Rowney. Rowney, August 29, 1291.

DECIMA. Note that a consultation was held concerning the King's tenths (granted for the crusade) between the Bishops of Winchester and Lincoln, who were the official collectors, and the King's treasurer, at the New Temple, London, on August 31, 1291. On the following day the said bishops published the bulls empowering them to act as collectors.

Memorandum quod II kalendas Septembris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo tractatum fuit super decima domino regi concessa in subsidium terre sancte inter dominos¹ Wynton' et Lincoln' episcopos taxatores proventuum ecclesiasticorum in Cant' et Ebor' provinciis et collectores decime eorundem proventuum per

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sedem apostolicam deputatos et dicti domini regis thesaurarium , et die sequente , scilicet kalendis Septembris anno predicto loco quo prius saltem apud Novum Templum London' publicate fuerunt bulle eisdem episcopis pro taxatione et collectione dicte decime faciendis a sede apostolica destinate.

[*folio 35v*]

PRO HOSPITALI SANCTI ANTONII. To the dean and chapter of Lincoln and to all the archdeacons of the diocese and their officials, sending to them an order to obey a letter of Archbishop Pecham (given in full), in which the archbishop declared that the brethren of the hospital of S. Antony in the diocese of Vienne were to be allowed to collect alms since they were exempt from the papal prohibition. London, Old Temple, September 1, 1291.

O. etc , decano et capitulo ecclesie Lincoln' necnon universis archidiaconis per Lincoln' diocesem constitutis et eorum officialibus salutem , etc . Litteras venerabilis patris domini Johannis dei gracia Cant' archiepiscopi , totius Anglie primatis , recepimus sub hac forma : — Frater J. permissione divina Cant' archiepiscopus totius Anglie primas , venerabilibus fratribus episcopis et discretis viris eorum officialibus ,¹ decanis ecclesiarum cathedralium ,¹ archidiaconis , eorumque officialibus et aliis ecclesiarum prelati per provinciam nostram Cant' constitutis , salutem in domino sempiternam . Quia ut intelleximus , quamplures nostre Cant' provincie non que Christi set² potius que sua sunt querentes , animalia et alia caritatis subsidia que hospitali sancti Antonii Viennens' diocesis a Christi fidelibus erogantur penes se injuste retinent et eidem hospitali reddere contradicunt , asserentes et male hoc sibi licere pretextu quarundam litterarum apostolicarum per quas sanctissimus pater dominus Nicholaus papa quartus obvians presumptioni quorundam qui elemosinas , legata et male ablata incerta , et que alias ratione predicationis crucis offeri contingit in terre sancte subsidium convertenda , petere et colligere minime formidabant , universis et singulis religiosis ordinibus , hospitalium et domorum dei magistris et fratribus cujuscumque essent conditionis vel ordinis , questus omnes exercitium interdixit , vos rogamus , monemus et in domino exhortamur quatinus cum intentionis dicti domini pape sit et fuerit quod fratres et nuncii predictae hospitalis exceptis hiis que in terre sancte subsidium assignantur , possunt petere et recipere omnia que beato Antonio et ejusdem hospitalis pauperibus et infirmis specialiter conferuntur , prout in ipsius sanctissimi patris litteris magistro et fratribus memoratis concessis plenius continetur , ipsos fratres et eorum nuncios animalia et cetera bona pia devotione fidelium dicto hospitali collata et impostorum conferenda , petere et recipere , et de eisdem prout sibi

¹ Blank in MS.

² *Sic, recte* 'sed'.

decreverint ordinare libere permittatis . Et ad hujusmodi negotium efficacius proseguendum , eisdem litteras vestras favorabiles et benignas concedatis liberaliter et tradatis . Datum apud Mortelak' VIII kalendas Septembris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo et consecrationis nostre tertiodecimo . — Cum igitur de intentione sanctissimi patris domini pape predicta per exhibitas nobis ipsius litteras quas inspeximus nobis constet , vobis mandamus quatinus circa dictos fratres et eorum nuncios favorabiliter exequamini que in prescriptis domini archiepiscopi litteris continentur . Valete . Datum apud Vetus Templum London' kalendis Septembris pontificatus nostri anno duodecimo.

INDULGENCIA. Grant of twenty days' indulgence to all confessed and contrite persons who should say a Pater and an Ave for the soul of Thomas the late Bishop of Rochester, whose body is buried in Rochester cathedral. London, Old Temple, September 1, 1291.

REVOCATIO COMMISSIONIS. Revocation of the commission to the dean of Grantham and Master John of Fledborough (Fletburgh') rector of Haugham (Hacham) to discharge the executors of the will of William of Stanton (Staunton'), steward of Sir James Byrun, knight, since one of the executors had objected to the dean of Grantham. The bishop had cited all the executors to appear before him on the first juridical day after the feast of All Saints. Figheldean, September 8, 1291.

INDULGENCIA. Grant of twenty days' indulgence to all confessed and contrite persons who should say a Pater and an Ave for the soul of William de la Schare whose body is buried in the church of S. Mary at Putney in the diocese of Winchester. Figheldean, September 10, 1291.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Simon of Olney (Olneya), clerk, to receive all holy orders. Amesbury, September 12, 1291.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Robert son of Walter of Bampton, acolyte, to receive all holy orders. Figheldean, September 11, 1291.

INDULGENCIA. Grant of twenty days' indulgence to all confessed and contrite persons who should say a Pater and an Ave for the soul of William de Longespée (Lungespeye) Earl of Salisbury, whose body is buried in Salisbury Cathedral before the altar where the Mass of the Blessed Virgin is celebrated daily. Figheldean, September 12, 1291.

[*folio 36*]

CAPTIO. Request to the King for the arrest of Ralph Palmer (le Paumer) of 'Eure', Alice his wife, Ralph Palmer the younger, Maud Palmer, John Palmer and Cecily La Daye, who, as the letter of the official of the Archdeacon of Buckingham testified, had remained excommunicated for more than forty days in spite of warnings by the dean of Burnham. Banbury, September 15, 1291.

DE PREDICATIONE CRUCIS. Note that on September 14, 1291 (Holy Cross Day) the bishop reconciled the church of Burford, desecrated by bloodshed, and preached a crusading sermon there on the text "God forbid that I should glory",¹ and on the following day he preached another at Banbury on the text "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us".²

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Vincent of Welton (Welleton') near Daventry (Daventr'), clerk, to receive all holy orders. Banbury, September 17, 1291.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to John of Aylesbury (Eylesbir'), clerk. Daventry, September 17, 1291.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS. Note of a sentence of excommunication to be published by the Archdeacon of Northampton or his official against all those who prevented the Abbot and convent of Sulby from collecting their tithes or exercising other rights in the parish of Harrowden (Haruwedon'). The preamble to this sentence was the same as that in the letter to the vicar of Wendover, in the roll of memoranda relating to the ninth year of Sutton's episcopate.³ Leicester, September 19, 1291.

COMMISSIO. Commission to the Prior of Daventry and Master Ralph of Buckingham (Buck') rector of Moreton Pinkney to discharge John vicar of Weedon (Wedon') who had been coadjutor to Simon vicar of Dodford (Dodeford'). Leicester, September 19, 1291.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to William of Harby (Herdeby), acolyte. Grantham, September 22, 1291.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to Roger son of William Palmer (Paumer) of Kibworth (Kybbewurth'), clerk. Aubourn, September 23, 1291.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS. To the dean of Calcewaith, ordering him to excommunicate, in the church of Mablethorpe (Marblethorp') and three or four neighbouring churches, all those who had assaulted

¹ Galatians, VI, 14.

² Romans, V, 8.

³ This roll is lost.

Ralph of Partney (Parteneye), clerk. Nettleham, September 26, 1291.

COMMISSIO. Commission to Robert of Burton, sequestrator, and to Master Benedict of Ferriby (Feriby) to discharge Geoffrey rector of Middle Carlton (Middelcarleton') and his fellow-executors of the will of Master Thomas of Caistor (Castr'), rector of S. Peter's, Torksey (Torkeseye). Nettleham, September 26, 1291.

DISSISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Richard Franklin (Fraunkelyn) of Southwick (Suthwyk'), acolyte, to receive all holy orders. Granted at the request of Master Robert de Lacy (Lascy). Nettleham, September 27, 1291.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to Robert of Belvoir (de Belvero), clerk, son of a subdeacon and an unmarried woman. Nettleham, September 27, 1291.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to John of Broughton (Broghton'), clerk. Lincoln, September 28, 1291.

[*folio 36^v*]

COMMISSIO. Commission to the Archdeacon of Stow and to Master William of Langworth (Langewath'), Master Walter of Wootton (Wutton') and Master Robert of Kilworth (Kivelingwurth'), canons of Lincoln, to try the cases brought against the executors of the wills of Adam of the Hospital and Roger son of Benedict, citizens of Lincoln, and against Richard de Beauso (Beausou'), John his brother, Alice of Gringley (Grengeley'), Emma of Langley (Langele), John formerly clerk of S. Cuthbert's, Lincoln, Maud of London, (Lond') and Master William Tanner (le Tanur) of Lincoln. Nettleham, September 28, 1291.

LICENCIA DEDICANDI. Licence to the Augustinian Hermits of Lincoln to have their church and precincts dedicated by any Catholic bishop. Nettleham, October 1, 1291.

COMMISSIO. Commission to Robert of Burton, sequestrator, and to Jocelyn vicar of Carlton-le-Moorland (Karleton' juxta Basingham) to discharge the executors of the will of Richard of Carlton Scroop (Carleton' in Cranewell'). Nettleham, October 1) 1291.¹

COMMISSIO. Commission to the treasurer (Richard of Horton) and subdean (? Gilbert of Stratton) of Lincoln, to investigate the

¹ There is a drawing in the margin of a hand with an elongated finger, which points to a cross at the end of this entry. The words 'vide in ultimo folio hujus voluminis' are written beside the cross in a fourteenth-century hand. The folio, however, is missing.

complaint of the precentor (Adam of Brampton) that a kitchen built by Richard vicar of Glenthams was shutting out the light from his window. The commissaries were to settle the case, if possible by amicable agreement. Nettleham, October 1, 1291.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilectis in Christo filiis dominis¹ thesaurario et¹ subdecano ecclesie Lincoln' salutem , etc . Altercationi inter dilectum in Christo filium dominum A. precentorem ecclesie nostre predictae firmarium ecclesie de Glenthams capitulo nostro Lincoln' appropriate , et Ricardum perpetuum vicarium ejusdem ecclesie , occasione cujusdam coquine site in fundo dicte ecclesie de Glenthams quam dictus precentor in area ad portionem mansi dicti capituli spectante erectam et alias lumini camere sue intolerabiliter officere asserit et affirmat , jampridem habitam et inpresenciarum durantem , uno modo vel alio quantum in nobis est terminare volentes , vobis mandamus quatinus apud Glenthams personaliter accedentes , dictumque locum visui diligencius supponentes , hujusmodi contentionis articulum concordia si ad illam forsitan partes illas inducere valueritis , vel judicio de plano cum celeritate qua fieri poterit terminare curetis , ad quod faciendum vobis de consensu partium predictarum vices nostras committimus cum cohercionis canonice potestate . Valete . Datum apud Nettelham kalendis Octobris , anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo.

CONTRA CONSERVATORES. To the dean of Yarborough, ordering him to desist from attempting to force the vicar of Barnetby-le-Wold to appear before the Prior of S. Edmund's (who claimed to be conservator of the liberties of the order of Sempringham) at the instigation of the Prior and convent of Newstead-on-Ancholme. Nettleham, October 1, 1291.

O. etc , decano de Jordeburch' , etc . Querelam dilecti in Christo filii¹ vicarii parochialis ecclesie de Barnetby nuper recepimus continentum quod¹ prior et conventus de Novo Loco juxta Ancolm' in ipsius gravamen pro viribus temere molientes eundem coram¹ priore monasterii Sancti Edmundi pretendente se conservatorem privilegiorum libertatum¹ magistri et fratrum ordinis de Sempringham' a sede apostolica concessarum deputatum , ad diem Lune proxime post festum Sancti Luce evangeliste coram ipso vel commissariis suis in ecclesia conventuali Sancti Edmundi , dictis priori et conventui de Novo Loco super sibi obiciendum responsurum et juri pariturum per vos citari non sine abusionis nota nuperrime procurarunt , propter quod sibi parato memoratis priori et conventui coram iudice competenti respondere et in omnibus juri parere ut dicit super tam manifesta injuria per nos remedium

¹ Blank in MS.

congruum adhiberi instantius postulavit . Nos vero attendentes quod quieti subditorum nostrorum quantum honeste possumus prospicere et aliorum maliciis obviare tenemur , advertentesque quod conservatores privilegiorum hujusmodi manifestis injuriis et violenciis tantum de quibus in dicto citatorio nulla prorsus fit mentio intromittere se possunt , et ad alia que judicalem indaginem exigunt suam extendere nequeunt potestatem , vobis mandamus in virtute obediencie firmiter injungendo , quatinus dictos priorem et conventum moneatis , ut suis prospicientes conscienciis pariter et honori , a fatigatione dicti vicarii coram prefato conservatore litteris apostolicis abutente in hoc casu desistere non omittant . Alioquin dissimulare non poterimus quin juxta condictum domini¹ Cant' et suffraganeorum suorum , ac aliis prout nobis ex indulto speciali contra abusores competit exequamur quod videbitur consonum rationi . Vos autem scire volumus quod si hujusmodi mandata exequi presumpseritis abusiva , temeritatem vestram acrius puniemus . Datum apud Nettelham kalendis Octobris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo et pontificatus nostri XII.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS. Note of a sentence of excommunication to be published by the dean of Rutland against all those who were conspiring against and attempting to change the laudable customs of the church of Edith Weston (Weston'). Spaldwick, October 13, 1291.

[folio 37]

SENTENCIA GENERALIS. To the dean of Louthesk, ordering him to warn and if necessary excommunicate all those who had conspired to derive the church of Kelstern of its proper offerings. Stow Park, October 6, 1291.

O. etc , decano de Luthesk' , etc . Ad nostram auditiam jam pervenit quod nonnulli parochiani ecclesie de Kelstern' tanquam ingrati et degeneres filii laudabilem consuetudinem erga eandem ecclesiam pia devotione fidelium introductam et ibidem ac alibi quasi communiter in decanatu vestro a longissimis retrotemporibus quorum memoria non existit optentam quam ad oblationes in purificationibus mulierum , exequiis mortuorum et consimilibus perperam immutare quasi per conspiracionem seu conjurationem aut alias excogitatam maliciam totaliter subtrahere , et penitus infringere noviter presumpserunt , et adhuc presumunt nequiter indurati , inito inter eos condicto , statuto seu alias practione illicita , quod de hujusmodi purificationibus et exequiis ac casibus consimilibus nullus offerat nisi unus , in libertatis ecclesiastice prejudicium , animarum suarum grande periculum ac perniciosum exemplum et scandalum plurimorum . Nos vero attendentes quod

¹ Blank in MS.

hujusmodi presumptores deo odibiles , de quibus ecclesia sacrosancta veraciter dicere potest ‘ ventrem meum doleo ’¹ per censuram ecclesiasticam sunt artius cohercendi , vobis firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus omnes et singulos conspiratores, conjuratores predictos ac consuetudinem prefatam temere immutantes et infringentes , et hujusmodi oblationes maliciose et in contemptum ecclesie subtrahentes , in dicta ecclesia intra missarum solemnia , post lectum evangelium , per vos aut alios in genere canonice moneatis , et cum ea que poteritis efficacia salubriter inducatis , quod ab hujusmodi facto et proposito tam dampnato de cetero penitus desistentes , de presumptis et male subtractis in hac parte infra quindecim dies a tempore noticie monitionis hujusmodi satisfaciant ut tenentur . Alioquin omnes et singulos presumptores predictos eisque in hac parte ope vel consilio scienter et prudenter faventes , assumptis vobiscum XII vicariis seu capellanis parochialibus de vicinis albis et stolis indutis , cruce et cereis procedentibus , in ecclesia de Kelstern’ predicta proxima die dominica post presentium receptionem , hora pretacta solempniter excommunicetis² et sic excommunicatos esse publice nuncietis , hoc idem per tres dies dominicos subsequentes in ecclesia predicta et aliis vicinis de quibus videritis expedire , absque tamen congregatione presbiterorum predicta fieri facientes . De nominibus vero hujusmodi delinquentium inquiratis et quos super premissis juste inveneritis diffamatos , ipsos taliter castigare curetis quod ipsorum pena sit aliis hujusmodi presumptoribus in exemplum . Datum apud Parcum Stowe, VI nonas Octobris , anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo et pontificatus nostri XII.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS. Note of another sentence of excommunication, in the same form as the last, to be published by the Dean of Candleshoe in Partney (Parteneye). Stow Park, October 6, 1291.

COMMISSIO. To the Archdeacon of Stow and Master William of Langworth, canon of Lincoln, who had already been appointed commissaries to discharge the executors of the will of Thomas of Owmbly, telling them to expedite the proceedings, which were being unduly long, and report to the bishop, or to send him a sealed report of what they had already done. Nettleham, October 1, 1293.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln’ episcopus dilectis in Christo filiis archidiacono Stowe et magistro Willelmo de Langewath’ canonico Lincoln’ salutem , etc . Ratiociniorum administrationis executorum testamenti quondam Thome de Ouneby vos dudum deputavimus auditores . Et quia ejusdem testamenti executio aliter quam deceret dilata et protracta dicitur in suspenso , vobis

¹ A reminiscence of Isaiah, XVI, 11.

² *Sic, recte* ‘ excommunicetis ’.

mandamus quatinus id quod coram vobis actum extitit in hac parte , si penes vos resideat , nobis sub sigillis vestris ad plenum transmittatis inclusum . Alioquin si processus hujusmodi apud vos vel executores predictos nequeat reperiri , vocatis coram vobis ad certum diem et locum eisdem executoribus , eorum ratiocinia denuo audiat , sibi et ceteris quorum interest exhibeatis celeris justicie complementum . In quibus omnibus et singulis vobis vices nostras committimus per presentes , mandantes quatinus cum ratiocinia hujusmodi audieritis , nos litteris vestris patentibus harum seriem et processum vestrum totum plenius continentibus sine more dispendio certificetis aperte . Valete . Datum apud Nettelham kalendis Octobris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo et pontificatus nostri duodecimo.

COMMISSIO. Commission to the dean of Gartree and Master Roger of Croxton to discharge Ralph rector of Wispington (Wyspington') and his fellow-executors of the will of John of Steeping (Steeping'). Stow Park, October 2, 1291.

COMMISSIO. Commission to the precentor (Adam of Brampton), the subdean (? Gilbert of Stratton) and to Master William of Langworth (Langewath') canon of Lincoln, to hear and settle the dispute over certain pensions claimed by the Abbot and convent of Bardney from Robert rector of Sotby (Sotteby), William rector of Hagworthingham (Hagwurthingham), John rector of Lusby (Luseby), Robert rector of Firsby (Friseby), John rector of Partney (Parteneye), Hugh rector of Howell (Huwell'), William rector of Heckington (Hekington'), Robert rector of the mediety of Claypole (Claypol), William vicar of Barton, Ralph vicar of Edlington and William vicar of Skendleby (Skendelby). Stow Park, October 7, 1291.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS. Note of a sentence of excommunication, to be published by the deans of Beltisloe and Lovedon, against all those infringing the rights and liberties of Bardney Abbey. Stow Park, October 7, 1291.

[folio 37v]

ABSOLUTIO EXECUTORUM. Letter patent of the bishop announcing the discharge of William rector of Wickenby, executor of Master Roger of Cave, canon of Lincoln, his brother, and of William of Brompton rector of Little Bytham, co-executor of the said Master Roger, appointed instead of Robert of Clixby rector of Great Carlton (who had died). William rector of Wickenby still had six pounds, thirteen pence and a farthing remaining from the estate, and he was told to keep this sum until the bishop should arrange what to do with it. Stow Park, October 4, 1291.

Universis pateat per presentes quod nos Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus , audita ratione administrationis domini Willelmi rectoris ecclesie de Wykingby , executoris testamenti quondam magistri Rogeri de Cava canonici ecclesie Lincoln' alias in diocese nostra beneficiati , germani sui , et Willelmi de Brumpton' rectoris ecclesie de Bihamel in locum quondam Roberti de Clisseby rectoris ecclesie de Carleton' coexecutoris ejusdem testamenti per nos auctoritate ordinaria subrogati , quia omnimodis receptis ac liberationibus et expensis eorundem ac aliis predictum testamentum qualitercumque contingentibus , computatis et allocatis de jure allocandis , invenimus quod penes dictum Willelmum de Wykingby VI libre XIII denarii et quadrans dumtaxat residebant de claro , de quibus juxta ordinationem nostram alias faciendam disponet ubi et quando videbitur oportunum , dicto Willelmo rectore ecclesie de Bihamel de bonis dicti defuncti nichil penes se prorsus habente , memoratos rectores de hiis que pervenerunt ad eosdem ratione dicti testamenti bene et fideliter administrasse nostro judicio reputantes , ipsos ab onere redditionis ratiocinii administrationis sue in omnibus aliis receptis per eosdem preterquam de summa pecunie pretacta duximus absolvendos . In cujus rei testimonium eisdem litteras nostras fieri fecimus patentes . Datum apud Parcum Stowe , IIII nonas Octobris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo et pontificatus nostri XII.

PRO DEFECTIBUS ECCLESIE DE ESTTIRINGTON'. To the official of the Archdeacon of Lincoln, telling him to make the executors of Master Jordan of Ingham, who had been rector of East Torrington, pay for the repair of the church, chapel and other buildings. The man who had just been presented to the living had complained to the bishop that Master Jordan's predecessor had assigned him ten pounds for these repairs, and that they had not been done. Newark, October 9, 1291.

VII idus Octobris anno XII apud Newerk' , suggesto ex parte¹ de Tittenle ad ecclesiam de Esttiringdon' presentati , quod proximus predecessor magistri Jordani de Ingham ultimi rectoris ejusdem decem libras pro reparatione defectuum dicte ecclesie , capelle ad eandem spectantis et edificiorum ejusdem contingencium pro tempore quo curam gessit ipsius , assignasset predicto magistro Jordano , quodque idem Jordanus ut tenebatur in vita sua minime reparasset , scriptum fuit² officiali archidiaconi Lincoln quod executores dicti magistri Jordani compelleret ad reparationem defectuum predictorum previa ratione.

¹ Blank in MS. His name was Philip of Tittenley. L.R.S. 39, p. 164.

² Blank in MS.

[NO HEADING]. To the official of the Archdeacon of Lincoln, ordering him to compel the Prior and convent of Frieston¹ (Freston') to pay the money properly due to the vicar of the church of Frieston. Newark, October 9, 1291.

LICENSIA RECONCILIANDI. Licence to the rector of Sibstone (Sibbesdon) to have his church, which had been desecrated by bloodshed, reconciled by any Catholic bishop. [Newark,] October 10, 1291.

PRO CAMPANILI DE HAGWRTHINGHAM. To the dean of Horncastle and Hill, ordering him to obey the bishop's mandate, which he had so far disregarded, to compel the parishioners of Hagworthingham to contribute to the cost of building a belfry. Newark, October 10, 1291.

O. etc , decano de Horncastr' et Hill salutem , etc . Dudum scripsimus vobis quod parochianos ecclesie de Hagwurthingham' ad constructionem campanilis ejusdem ecclesie de consensu et voluntate communi habitatorum loci ejusdem contribuere rationabiliter tenere recusantes , ad conferendum sicut justum foret ad completionem hujusmodi fabrice per censuram ecclesiasticam ratione previa cogeretis . Sed vos qua fronte nescimus hujusmodi mandatum nostrum haecenus ut dicitur contempsistis , nota inobediencie dampnabiliter incurrendo . Quocirca vobis in virtute obediencie si forte adhuc resilire volueritis a contemptu firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus contra prefatos parochianos debitum onus contribuendi fabrice dicte ecclesie seu campanilis ejusdem contumaciter recusantes subire secundum formam prioris mandati nostri vobis prius in hac parte directi per censuram ecclesiasticam usque ad satisfactionem condignam efficaciter procedere non tardetis . Datum apud Neuwerk' VI idus Octobris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo.

CONTRA STEPHANUM NUNCIMUM.² Record of nine bulls, one notarial instrument, two drafts of bulls, and two letters of surety (one concerning the Prior and convent of Southwark and one concerning Master Salvagius), brought from Rome by Stephen the messenger and delivered to John de Scalleby. Cheshunt, October 18, 1291.

XV kalendas Novembris anno XII apud Cestrehunt' recepit J. de Scalleby novem bullas quas Stephanus nuncius detulit de curia Romana , una cum quodam instrumento publico super presentatione unius facta iudicibus delegatis , que quidem bulle contingunt appellationem duarum bullarum que non fuerunt

¹ Near Boston.

² There is a small drawing of a flag in the margin opposite this letter and the next.

grossate , propter tractatum pacis . Item , duas litteras cautionales quarum una contra priorem et conventus de Suthwerk' et alia contra magistrum Salvag'.

COMMISSIO. Commission to the treasurer (Richard of Horton) and to Master William of Langworth (Langewath') canon of Lincoln, to examine the executors of the will of William of Stanton (Staunton') steward of Sir James de Birun, Knight, on the first juridical day after the feast of All Souls, in the cathedral, and to report to the bishop. London, Old Temple, October 20, 1291.

[*folio 38*]

SENTENCIA GENERALIS. Note of a sentence of excommunication, to be published by the Archdeacons of Lincoln and Leicester or their officials, upon all those who had assaulted W. le Rus, clerk. London, Old Temple, October 21, 1291.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation, on the authority of the papal penitentiary, whose letter is given in full, to Richard of Conington, deacon, who had received the subdiaconate and diaconate without a proper title and faculty. Richard was given a penance and a period of suspension. London, Old Temple, October 24, 1291.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus , dilecto in Christo filio Ricardo de Cuniton' nostre diocesis diacono , salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Litteras penitenciarü domini pape pro te nobis nuper directas recepimus sub hac forma : — Venerabili in Christo patri¹ dei gracia episcopo Lincoln' , frater Mathaeus miseratione divina tituli Sancti Laurencii in Damaso presbiter cardinalis salutem et sinceram in domino caritatem . Ricardus de Cuniton' vestre diocesis lator presentium exposuit coram nobis quod ipse olim ut deo possit² acceptabiliorem impendere famulatum , ad sacros cupiebat ordines promoveri . Et cum nec certum titulum nec competentes ad hoc prius facultates haberet , quidam prior monasterii ordinis Sancti Benedicti ad ejus precum instanciam super titulo ipsius monasterii litteras concessit eidem . Et cum non crederet ex hoc peccare , ei permisit per proprium juramentum ipsum vel monasterium suum aut predecessores suos se nullo unquam tempore impetiturum occasione sibi super hoc titulo sic concessi , et per prefatas litteras subdiaconatus et diaconatus alias rite per omnia recepit ordines , nondum tamen ministravit in ipsis sed aliis divinis officiis se ingressit ; super quibus supplicavit humiliter sibi per sedem apostolicam salubriter de misericordia provideri . Nos autem auctoritate domini pape ejus penitenciarie

¹ Blank in MS.

² *Sic*. 'Posset' would be more usual.

curam gerimus et ejus speciali mandato vestre paternitati committimus quatinus cum ab excessu reatu hujusmodi absolventes , injungatis ei penitenciam que sibi sit ad salutem , et aliis ad repressionis exemplum , et ipso ad tempus non modicum tamen prout expedire videritis vestro arbitrio limitandum et suorum ordinum executione suspenso si sibi merita suffragantur et aliud canonicum non obsistat , super irregularitate dicto modo contracta auctoritate predicta cum eo misericorditer dispensetis . Datum apud Urbem Veterem , nonis Martii , pontificatus domini Nicholai pape quarti anno quarto . — Te igitur ab excessu pretacto , imposita tibi penitencia salutari in forma debita absolventes , super irregularitate ut premittitur per te contracta , te ab executione ordinum tuorum ad tempus prius suspenso , suffragantibus que tibi meritis juxta testimonium quod tibi perhibetur , auctoritate nobis in hac parte commissa dum tamen aliud canonicum non obsistat , tecum misericorditer dispensamus . In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum . Actum et datum apud Vetus Templum London' nono kalendas Novembris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo et pontificatus nostri duodecimo.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to Richard of Bradwell (Bradewell'), acolyte. London, Old Temple, October 25, 1291.

ADJUNCTIO ROBERTI SEQUESTRATORI CUM EXECUTORIBUS MAGISTRI R. DE STAUMFORD'. To Robert of Burton, sequestrator, associating him with the executors of Robert the late rector of Dunsby-by-Bourne and Binbrook for their better guidance. (They were accusing one another of dishonesty, and Roger rector of S. Mary Binewerk at Stamford, appointed by the testator as their adviser, found them all equally suspect.) Nassington, October 12, 1291.

O. permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilecto in Christo filio Roberto de Burton' sequestratori nostro salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Quia inter executores testamenti quondam magistri Roberti rectoris ecclesiarum de Dunnesby et de Binnebrok' orta dissensione , unus alium dicit de administratione suspectum , ac Rogerus rector ecclesie beate Marie de Binnewerk' Staumford' consiliarius superintendens a dicto testatore specialiter deputatus , ut dicit , passim omnes executores predictos suspectos esse affirmat , nos hujusmodi alterationem contentiosam pariter et inhonestam cujuslibet quomodovis difficultate sublata , in compendiosiori qua possumus amputare volentes , te executoribus predictis ex officio nostro duximus adjungendum , mandantes quatinus bona dicti defuncti illicite amota et hactenus male distracta , quorum venditio de jure valet de facili irritari , revocari procures de voluntate dicti defuncti ut effectui mancipetur , et bona sua in pios usus

plenius convertentur , diligenciam quam poteris adhibendo , proviso quod bona dicti defuncti ex nunc vendenda sine dissimulatione qualibet fideliter distrahantur , et inanibus sumptibus et expensis inutilibus faciendis quantum in te est occasio precludatur . Datum apud Nassington' IIII idus Octobris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo et pontificatus nostri duodecimo.

[*folio 38v*]

POTESTAS MAGISTRI GIFREDI QUANTUM AD COLLECTIONEM OBVENTIONUM. Bull of Martin IV appointing Master Geoffrey de Vezano, clerk of the papal camera, collector of the crusading offerings in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland, except for such tenths as had been reserved for other collectors. A copy of this bull was read and shown, under the seals of the said Master Geoffrey and the Dean of the Arches, at the New Temple, London, on October 24, 1291, in the presence of the Bishops of Lincoln and Winchester.

Martinus episcopus servus servorum dei dilecto filio Magistro Giffredo de Vezano canonico Cameracen', camere nostre clerico, apostolice sedis nuncio, salutem et apostolicam benedictionem . De tue circumspectionis industria sinceram in domino fiduciam optinentes , discretioni tue exigendi ac recipiendi per te vel per alium seu alios nomine terre sancte in partibus Anglie , Wallie , Scotie et Hibernie ea omnia que eidem terre sancte ex voto seu promisso aut redemptionibus votorum tam crucesignatorum quam aliorum , vel depositis seu testamentis sive alias quacumque ratione , modo vel causa eidem terre sancte a quibuscumque personis debentur , exceptis decimis in ejusdem terre sancte subsidium deputatis , quarum collectio certis personis ab eadem sede specialiter est commissa , necnon et compellendi debitores et detentores hujusmodi ad solutionem predictorum omnium faciendum postquam tibi vel eis quibus super hiis commiseris vices tuas de hoc per inquisitionem vel alio modo constiterit , eosque qui per hujusmodi debitis non solutis excommunicationis , suspensionis vel interdicti sentencias incurrerint a prefatis sentenciis , postquam de hiis tibi satisfactum fuerit , absolvendi ac dispensandi cum clericis super irregularitate quam hujusmodi ligati sentenciis celebrando divina officia seu immiscendo se illis forte contraxerint , et faciendi etiam super hoc litteras absolutionis et dispensationis illis qui debita ipsa persolverint . Contradictores quoque ejuscumque conditionis , dignitatis aut ordinis fuerint , appellatione postposita per censuram ecclesiasticam compescendi liberam auctoritate presencium concedimus facultatem . Non obstantibus si personis aliquibus ab eadem sede indultum existat , quod per litteras sedis ipsius excommunicari , interdicti nequeant vel suspendi , et quibuscumque indulgenciis vel privilegiis per que mandati nostri executio

in hac parte impediri valeat vel etiam retardari , et de quibus plenam et expressam aut de verbo ad verbum oporteat in nostris litteris apostolicis super exigendis et recipiendis eisdem debitis alii vel aliis destinatis et constitutione de duabus dictis edita in concilio generali . Volumus etiam ut quecumque ex premissis recipere te contingat , illa sub testimonio fidedignarum personarum deponas in aliquibus tutis locis et patentes litteras que et quanta et a quibus , quoniam et quare ipsa receperis continentes facias fieri , ac tuo et illarum personarum sub quorum testimonio illa deposueris sigillis muniri quarum similes eisdem sigillis munitas nobis mittere non postponas . Datum apud Urbem Veterem , nonis Martii , pontificatus nostri anno primo . — Et est sciendum quod copia bulle prescripte sigillis predicti magistri Giffredi et¹ decani de Arcubus London' signata lecta fuit et ostensa apud Novum Templum London' nono kalendas Novembris , anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo , in presencia dominorum¹ Winton' et¹ Lincoln' episcoporum et aliorum.

ISTA SUNT ARTICULI SUPER QUIBUS EST INQUIRENDUM ET PRO-
CEDENDUM SUPER NEGOTIIS TERRE SANCTE.² A list of inquiries to be
made concerning crusaders and crusading dues, offerings and legacies.

In primis utrum apud aliquem vel aliquos prelatos seculares seu religiosos vel aliquem si aliquos clericos religiosos sive seculares vel aliquem seu aliquos laicos cujuscumque ordinis , dignitatis seu conditionis existant deposita vel tradita fuerit aliqua pecunia vel aliqua res data , legata seu aliquo alio modo assignata in subsidium terre sancte.

Utrum aliquis sit cruce signatus ut in terram sanctam proficisceretur et non sit profectus.

Item si talis decessit³ utrum fecerit testamentum , et si fecerit , qui sunt executores ejus vel ad quos bona ipsius pervenerunt , et si assignavit vel legavit seu reliquit aliquid pro redemptione voti sui in subsidium terre sancte.

Item si aliquis assumpsit crucem ut aliquid de bonis suis mitteret in terram sanctam vel ejus subsidium.

Item si talis decesserit³ , qui sunt executores ejus vel ad quos bona ipsius pervenerunt.

Item si aliquis accepit pecuniam vel aliquid aliud ut in terram sanctam proficisceretur.

Item si talis proxime preterito passagio transfretavit.

¹ Blank in MS.

² This heading appears in the text and not, as is usual, in the margin.

³ I have followed Scalley's somewhat arbitrary use of tenses throughout this entry.

Item si talis decessit et qui sunt executores ejus vel ad quos bona ipsius pervenerunt.

[*folio 39*]

Item si aliquis pecuniam vel aliquid aliud debeat seu assignaverit vel promiserit ex aliqua causa terre sancte vel ejus subsidio , et quid et quantum.

Item cui vel quibus de talibus debitis assignatis vel promissis aliquid ante hec tempora sit solutum.

Item si hujusmodi debitorum assignatores seu promissores vel receptores ante satisfactionem decessuerunt et qui sunt eorum executores vel ad quos bona eorum pervenerunt.

Item videantur testamenta et si reperiatur in eis vel eorum aliquo quod pecunia vel res aliqua sit legata vel relicta terre sancte subsidio , et qui sunt executores singulorum testamentorum et ad quos bona pervenerunt singulorum testamentorum.

Item si aliquid de hujusmodi legatis vel relictis solutum fuerit et quid et quantum.

Item si de cruce signatis vel debitoribus terre sancte ex promissis vel assignatis seu voto vel redemptionibus votorum vel alia causa aliqui vel alique decesserint intestati vel intestate , inquirendum est de bonis eorum et requirendum satisfactionem , et si aliquis ex premissis testamentum fecerit et non apposuerit certum pro terra sancta set¹ aliquid legaverit seu reliquerit indistincte , de hujusmodi indistincte legatis debita satisfactio requiratur.

Item si aliquis pro hiis que contingunt terram sanctam fuerit suspensus vel excommunicatus et irregularis , requiratur quod satisfaciat , et post plenam satisfactionem absolvatur et cum eo dispensetur juxta formam auctoritatis apostolice.

Inquirendum est a singulis cruce signatis qua intentione crucem receperint , et si responderint ut vadant personaliter in subsidium terre sancte , recipiatur fides ab eis seu promissio vel juramentum secundum qualitatem personarum quod ibunt in proximo passagio et maxime quoniam dominus Rex Anglie vel aliqui comites seu barones de Anglia cum magna comitiva pro ipso subsidio publice transfretabunt . Si vero responderint quod crucem receperint ut aliquid de bonis suis tribuant pro subsidio terre sancte , recipiatur ab eis quod dare voluerint , et inducantur ad dandum congruum auxilium juxta possibilitatem suam , quia quanto magis dabunt , tanto majorem indulgenciam consequentur . Si vero aliqui de cruce signatis ut personaliter eant in terram sanctam facti fuerint inhabiles et impotentes omnino ad eundem in terram sanctam ,

¹ *Sic, recte 'sed'.*

tractetur cum eis quod juxta facultates suas congruum auxilium tribuant , ita quod indulgencias consequantur at si personaliter accederent , et habeant respectum ad expensas quas facturi essent eundo , morando et redeundo.

Item si inveniatur quod aliqui receperunt pecuniam vel res alias ad eundem in subsidium terre sancte et non iverunt , moneantur et inducantur ad deponendum dictam pecuniam vel res in thesauraria Novi Templi London' vel penes aliquam bonam societatem mercatorum tali conditionis quod si in proximo passagio habiles erunt ad transfretandum et faciendum servicium et dederint securitatem de eundo et morando in subsidium terre sancte legitimo tempore habeant libere pecuniam et res hujusmodi . Alioquin sint in dispositione curie Romane pro dicto subsidio.

Si aliquis debitum quod in veritate debet recipere ab aliquo assignaverit et concesserit terre sancte in toto vel in parte qua assignatio et concessio facta fuerit , requiratur et exigatur tanquam debitum terre sancte et nulla assignatio seu concessio recipiatur in fraudem vel simulato modo vel intentione ut assignans aliquid recuperet.

Item si inveniatur quod aliquis vel aliqui legaverint seu reliquerint aliquam pecuniam vel res alias alicui vel aliquibus personis nominatis vel non nominatis ad eundem in subsidium terre sancte , requirantur et moneantur executores vel detentores talis vel talium ad deponendum hujusmodi pecuniam et res in [*folio 39v*] thesauraria Novi Templi London' vel penes aliquam bonam societatem mercatorum sub conditione quod si persone nominate vel nominande ab executoribus sufficientes et habiles fuerint ad eundem et faciendum servicium et securitatem ydoneam dederint de eundo in proximo passagio ut supra et morando legitimo tempore , habeant pecuniam et res ipsas libere , alioquin sint in dispositione Romane ecclesie ad opus terre sancte.

COMMISSIO¹. Commission to Master William of Thornton and Master William of Langworth (Langewath'), canons of Lincoln, who had already been appointed to discharge William of Geddington (Geytington') and his fellow-executors of the will of Sir Hugh de Charnels, knight, to discharge Margaret widow of William of Helpston (Helpeston') and her fellow-executors of the said William of Helpston who was himself one of the executors of Sir Hugh de Charnels. The commissaries were to report to the bishop. London, Old Temple, October 25, 1291.

ABSOLUTIO EXCOMMUNICATI. Letters patent announcing the absolution of John Cleymund of Boston from a sentence of excommunication which he had incurred by striking Richard Prest,

¹ Drawing of a small flag in the margin.

clerk, twice upon the head with a sword causing a bruise but no great bloodshed or injury. John was given a penance and told to send a suitable man on crusade at the first opportunity. Theydon, October 27, 1291.

Universis pateat per presentes quod Johannes Cleymund de Sancto Botulpho a sententia majoris excommunicationis qua pro eo quod in Ricardum dictum Prest clericum manus iniecit temere violentas, ipsum ense bis in capite percutiendo, ad modicum livorem citra tamem sanguinis effusionem ac alias lesionem difficilem et enormem, auctoritate canonis extitit innodatus, satisfacto prius leso et imposita sibi pro commisso penitencia salutari, datoque sibi crucis signaculo, ita quod in primo generali passagio aliquem virum ydoneum juxta facultates suas mittat in subsidium terre sancte, per nos est auctoritate dicte crucis in forma ecclesie absolutus. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum. Datum apud Theyden' VI kalendas Novembris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo.

LITTERA CANT' ARCHIEPISCOPI PRO CRUCE EBOR'. Note of a mandate from Archbishop Pecham (given in full) ordering Bishop Sutton to do his best to prevent the Archbishop of York from having his cross carried erect in the diocese of Lincoln, and if he insisted on doing so, to forbid the people of the diocese to have any kind of communication with him, and to put under an interdict every place through which he passed. This mandate arrived at Theydon on October 28, 1291, and the bishop immediately wrote to the Archdeacons of Oxford and Buckingham telling them to see that it was put into effect.

Venit apud Theiden' V kalendas Novembris anno XII littera domini Cant' archiepiscopi sub hac forma :—Frater J. permissione divina Cant' ecclesie minister humilis, totius Anglie primas, venerabili in Christo fratri domino¹ dei gracia Lincoln' episcopo salutem et sinceram in domino caritatem. Quoniam intelleximus¹ archiepiscopum Ebor' cito per vestram diocesem in contemptum et prejudicium nostre Cant' ecclesie transiturum, vos rogamus, monemus et in domino exhortamur quatinus ipsius adventum sollicite explorantes, quantum licite poteritis obsistatis eidem, monendo ipsum et etiam exhortando, ne quoquomodo ibi vel alibi in civitate, diocese seu provincia nostra crucem suam erigat vel eam erectam deferat vel deferri faciat aut presumat. Inhibeatis etiam districtius omnibus et singulis vestre jurisdictioni subjectis ne quis ei in hoc facto prejudiciali nobis et ecclesie nostre quam plurimum clam vel palam prestat auxilium, consilium seu juvamen seu communicando contrahat cum eodem, quatinus in hoc casu jura prohibere permittunt,

¹ Blank in MS.

quodque nullus quamdiu erectam crucem habuerit ab eo benedictionem recipiat vel ei reverenciam exhibeat aliqualem canonica monitione premissa sub pena excommunicationis majoris quam in contrafacientes scienter et certa ex deliberatione proferimus in hiis scriptis, civitatem autem Lincoln' et loca omnia vestre diocesis per que idem archiepiscopus erecta cruce transitum faciet, quamdiu in ipsis moram fecerit, supponentis ecclesiastico interdicto. Datum apud Slindon', IX kalendas Novembris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo.—Et statim scriptum fuit¹ Oxon' et¹ Buck' archidiaconis, premissis salutatione et tenore prescripte littere sub hiis verbis:—Tanti siquidem patris obedire mandato illud effectui debito mancipando volentes in omnibus ut tenemur, vobis sub pena canonice districtionis firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus cum dictus dominus Ebor' de partibus Wallie versus London' per archidiaconatus vestros vel saltem eorum alterum prout didicimus transitum sit facturus, ejus adventum cum diligencia qua poteritis exploretis, sibi per vos ipsos vel si forsan fueritis impediti per officiales vestros et alias personas notabiles occurrentes, moneatis eundem ne in civitate vel provincia Cant' crucem suam erigat vel eam erectam deferat seu deferri faciat aut presumat, quod amplius est in supradicto mandato quoad inhibitionem subditis nostris faciendam et loca per que dictus dominus Ebor' transitum fecerit erecta cruce interdicto ecclesiastico supponenda, omni semota² negligencia et torpore efficaciter exequentes. Valete. Datum apud Theydon', V kalendas Novembris, etc.

ORDINATIO MAGISTRI GIFFREDI INTER MONIALES DE MARKYATE ET EXECUTORES TESTAMENTI ROBERTI LE PAUMER PER EPISCOPUM CONFIRMATA. Note of a settlement, made before Master Geoffrey de Vezano the papal nuncio, of a dispute between the nuns of Markyate, represented by their proctor, on the one hand, and the executors of Master Robert Palmer, late rector of Cotes, Thorpe and the mediety of the church of Misterton, and Richard the actual rector of the said mediety, on the other, concerning tithes and other debts owed by the nuns to the church of Misterton. The settlement was confirmed, at the request of the said Master Geoffrey, by Bishop Sutton at the Old Temple, London, on October 25, 1291.

Memorandum quod cum executores quondam magistri Roberti le Paumer de Cotes, Thorp' et medietatis de Minsterton' ecclesiarum rectoris, et dominus Ricardus nunc rector dicte medietatis ecclesie de Minsterton', et procurator dominarum de [folio 40] Markeyate in presencia magistri Gifredi de Vezano essent convocati super arreragiis decime predictae medietati ecclesie que ad summam quatuor librarum duodecim solidorum se extendebant responsuri

¹ Blank in MS.

² Sic, recte 'remota'.

et satisfactori , dicti executores quamdam litteram pensionis coram dicto Gifredo exhibuerunt , per quam prima facie videbatur predictas dominas predicto magistro Roberto in viginti libris argenti fuisse obligatas , licet procurator dictarum dominarum remissionem a predicto magistro Roberto factam opposuerat , ad cuius probationem se optulit in presencia dicti Giffredi . Ac iidem executores contra dictum Ricardum rectorem medietatis ecclesie predictae proposuerunt quod ille idem rector bona dicti defuncti ad valorem duodecim librarum occupavit , propter quod videbatur eisdem executoribus quod predictae domine et dictus Ricardus nunc rector ad solutionem arreragiorum decime predictae per magistrum Giffredum possent ac deberent sufficienter compelli . Unde predictus magister Giffredus , habitis super premissis pluribus colloquiis et tractatibus , tandem pro bono pacis et concordie , consideratis alligatis et propositis , ordinavit quod dicte domine de summa quatuor librarum et duodecim solidorum que restant solvende pro arreragiis decime dicte portionis solvant quadraginta et sex solidos et eis restituerentur littere super pensione , et dicti executores et nunc rector dicte portionis solverent alios quadraginta et sex solidos , et nunc rector dicte portionis viginti tres solidos , cessantibus hinc inde gravaminibus et petitionibus predictos executores quoquomodo tangentibus . Sed quia dicti executores pro ita modica quantitate dominas adquietare ac in pace dimittere non audebant , ut asseruerunt , ne ab ordinariis possent reprehendi , de voluntate omnium predictorum misit eosdem dictus Giffredus ad nostram audienciam , ut visa ordinatione sua disponeremus in premissis , quare nos O. permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus procuratoribus executorum , dominarum et nunc rectoris portionis predictae coram nobis comparentibus et mandatum speciale super hoc habentibus , necnon dicte ordinationi unanimiter consentientibus , predictam ordinationem a magistro Gifredo factam confirmavimus . Datum apud Vetus Templum London' die Sanctorum Crispini et Crispiniani , pontificatus nostri anno duodecimo.

SECUNDO COMMISSIO ELYENS'. Commission, by the Bishop of Lincoln, the bishop of London and the dean of S. Martin's-le-Grand in London, judges-delegate of the papacy, to the Archdeacon of Essex and Master Hugh of Collingham canon of London, or either of them severally, to try the case between Master John d' Oseville Archdeacon of Ely and rector of Balsham, on the one hand, and the Bishop of Ely, Master Ralph of Fotheringhay and Master Thomas of Louth on the other. Theydon. October 31, 1291.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus una cum reverendo patre domino¹ London' episcopo et¹ decano ecclesie

¹ Blank in MS.

Sancti Martini magni London' iudex inter partes infrascriptas a sede apostolica delegatus , discretis viris domino archidiacono Essex' in ecclesia London' et magistro Hugone de Colingham canonico Lincoln'¹ salutem in auctore salutis . Ut utriusque partis ex equitate parcatur laboribus et expensis , impedimento processus quod per absenciam alterius vestrum facile contingere posset , quandoque sicut hactenus casualiter contingit promptius jam sublata , vobis et utriusque vestrum conjunctim et divisim vices nostras in causis et negotiis inter magistrum Johannem de Osewill' archidiaconum Elyensem eundemque rectorem ecclesie Balsham Elyen' diocesis ut pretendit , ex parte una , et venerabilem patrem dominum W. dei gracia Elien' episcopum , ac magistros Radulphum de Foderinghaye et Thomam de Luda clericos ex altera , auctoritate sedis apostolice motis , ac domino² London' et decano ecclesie Sancti Martini London' predictis et nobis ab eadem sede commissis , tenore presentium cum canonice coercionis potestate duxinus committendos donec commissionem nostram hujusmodi duxerimus revocandam . Valet . Datum apud Theyden' , II kalendas Novembris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo.

COMMISSIO. Commission to the official of the Archdeacon of Lincoln to settle the dispute between the executors of Master Ralph Brune, rector of Braceborough (Brassingburg') and Ralph son of William his nephew. The executors had not paid a legacy left to Ralph son of William, who was a child. Theydon, November 3, 1291.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Philip of Aylesbury (Aylesbir'), acolyte, to receive all holy orders. Theydon, November 4, 1291.

PRO MAGISTRO GOCELINO.³ Note that Master Jocelyn of Kirmington (Kirmington') paid Robert of Kibworth (Kibbewurth') fifty marks for the use of the executors of Stephen Archdeacon of Northampton.⁴

PROCURATORIUM AD IMPETRANDUM.⁵ Letter of Beatrice, abbess of Elstow (Elnestowe) appointing Master Simon de Boys, clerk, her proctor at the Roman curia. Sealed at Elstow on October 30, 1291, and counter-sealed by the bishop at Theydon on November 9, 1291.

[folio 40v]

LICENCIA ELIGENDI MAGISTRUM IN HOSPITALEM SANCTI JOHANNIS NORHAMT'. Licence to the brethren of the hospital of S. John at

¹ *Sic, recte* 'London'.

² Blank in MS.

³ Drawing of a hand in the margin.

⁴ Stephen of Sutton, brother of the bishop.

⁵ Drawing of the head of a man, with a bulbous nose in the margin.

Northampton, of which Bishop Sutton was patron, to elect a new master in succession to William, who had died. Theydon, November 12, 1291.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Master Roger of Headington (Hedingdon) to receive all holy orders which he had not yet taken. Theydon, November 13, 1291.

LITTERA ORDINUM. To all the archdeacons of the diocese or their officials, ordering them to warn all those who proposed to be ordained by the bishop at the coming ordinations, which were to take place at Wycombe, to arrive there six days before ordination day. The archdeacons were to announce that the bishop would not, on this occasion, ordain anyone except beneficed clergy and members of religious orders.¹ A report was to be made to the bishop. Theydon, November 24, 1291.

O. etc , universis archidiaconis , etc , vel eorum officialibus , etc . Quia die sabbati quatuor temporum proxime post festum Sancte Lucie virginis proxime futurum , pro habentibus dumtaxat custodias ecclesiarum usque ad proximos ordines vel alia forma quacumque ipsos custodes ad ordinem subdiaconatus et institutionem canonicam suscipiendum artante in subdiaconos nullatenus ordinatis , necnon pro institutis in ecclesiis parochialibus nostre diocesis infra hunc annum instantem nondum in presbiteros ordinatis hac vice volentibus ordinari , et etiam pro personis religiosis , in parochiale ecclesia de Wycumb' ordines celebrare proponimus domino concedente , vobis mandamus quatinus hujusmodi custodes et alios rectores ecclesiarum a nobis ut premittitur noviter institutos , ne prescriptio annalis rectoribus currat eisdem , ac viros religiosos archidiaconatum vestrorum ad ordines aspirantes , de die ordinum et loco predictis sine more dispendio premunire curetis , injungentes eisdem quod sexta feria dictum diem Sabbati precedente hora congrua loco prefato clericis nostris venturis ibidem pro ordinandorum et ordinum suorum nominibus recipiendis presenciam suam studeant exhibere , clericis non beneficiatis constare facientes pro certo quod alios quam beneficiatos et religiosos ordinare non intendimus ista vice . Vos autem qualiter hoc mandatum nostrum fueritis executi , nos litteris vestris patentibus harum seriem et nomina eorum quos duxeritis premuniendos continentibus certificetis tempore oportuno . Datum apud Theyden' VIII kalendas Decembris pontificatus nostri anno XII.

PRO DECIMA REGIS. To the Archdeacon of Northampton or his official, complaining that because of his dissimulation and sloth some of the clergy in his archdeaconry have not yet paid their tenth

¹ This fact, combined with the unusual sparseness of correspondence in the first three weeks of November 1291, suggests that Sutton was ill at this time.

to the King, and ordering him to collect the arrears and pay them to the bishop before S. Hilary's day (January 13) with an explanatory letter. Theydon, November 24, 1291.

Oliverus, etc.¹ archidiacono Norhamt' vel ejus officiali, etc. Pro decima domino Regi in consecratione domini Elyen' nuper concessa in festo annunciationis dominice proxime preterito pro una medietate et in festo assumptionis Beate Marie subsequenter elapso pro alia medietate pleniter exsolvenda, vobis jam pridem scripsimus vicibus repetitis quod hujusmodi decimam beneficia archidiaconatus vestri contingentem exigeretis et fideliter colligeretis, contradictores vobis et rebelles ad satisfaciendum de ea per censuram ecclesiasticam si necesse foret canonice compellendo. Et licet premissa vobis prius injunxerimus districtius exequenda, nonnulli tamen subdita vestri dictam decimam ut intelleximus solvere hactenus non curarunt, quod forte dissimulationi seu torpori vestre nimis merito est ut creditur imputandum. Quocirca vobis mandamus quatinus arreragia dicte decime sine more dispendio plenius exigentes de eisdem, citra festum Sancti Hillarii nobis satisfacere non tardetis, omnes et singulos dictam decimam non prestantes tam per sequestrationem fructuum suorum quam aliam censuram ecclesiasticam ad satisfactionem plenariam sicut justum fuerit compellentes, circa receptionem pecunie, quod pecuniam reprobam nullatenus admittatis, diligentius precavendo. Vos autem qualiter hujusmodi mandatum nostrum fueritis executi nos litteris vestris patentibus harum seriem et nomina non solventium si qui fuerint et qualiter processeritis contra ipsos apertius continentibus citra festum Sancti Hillarii supradictum reddatis plenius certiores. Valete. Datum apud Theyden' VIII kalendas Decembris pontificatus nostri anno XII.

PRO DEFECTIBUS VICARIE DE FALLUSLEYE. To the official of the archdeacon of Northampton, ordering him to sequester the goods of the late Henry, vicar of Fawsley, and to keep them until arrangements were made about the repair of the vicarage, in which Henry had left dilapidations which his successor, Richard of Ashby (Esseby), found intolerable. London, Old Temple, November 28, 1291.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS. Note of a sentence of excommunication, to be published by the dean of Stamford, against all those who were preventing the will of Richard son of¹ of Stamford (Staunford') from being put into effect. London, Old Temple, November 29, 1291.

[folio 41]

SENTENCIA GENERALIS. Note of a sentence of excommunication, to be published by the officials of the Archdeacons of Lincoln and

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Stow, against all those who had assaulted Brother Hugh de Rastrik', canon of Barlings (Barling'). London, Old Temple, November 30, 1291.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS. Note of a sentence of excommunication, to be published by the dean of Christianity in all the churches of the city of Lincoln, against all those who assaulted William of Barkby (Barkeby) clerk of the church of S. Botulph in Lincoln. London, Old Temple, November 30, 1291.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Master John of Sheepy (Schepeye), acolyte, to receive all holy orders. London, Old Temple, November 30, 1291.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to William le Blunt of Caldecote or Caldecott (Caldecot'), acolyte, to receive all holy orders. London, Old Temple, December 3, 1291.

INDULGENCIA. Grant of forty days' indulgence to all confessed and contrite persons of the diocese of Lincoln, and others whose diocesan bishops approved, who should say a Pater and an Ave for the soul of Eleanor of Castile the Queen-consort, and the souls of all the faithful departed. London, Old Temple, December 3, 1291.

Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis ad quorum noticiam pervenerit scriptum presens, Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus salutem in auctore salutis. Dum caros nostros veraciter penitentes nobis adimit sors humana, tam constantis animi quam salubris consilii est sub spe fruendi societate eorum in eterna quiete gemitus et dolores, ad quos pro hujusmodi obeuntibus infirmitas nature compellit, convertere in orationes devotas, quibus auctor nostre redemptionis placatus, memor verbi sui quod dixit, 'Nolo mortem peccatoris sed ut magis convertatur et vivat',¹ eos facilius a purgatorii cruciatu educat, volentes igitur ad hujusmodi orationes Christi fideles allectivis indulgenciarum muneribus propensius excitare, de dei omnipotentis misericordia, gloriose virginis Marie, Beate Hugonis confessoris et omnium sanctorum meritis confidentes, omnibus vere penitentibus et confessis parochianis nostris aut aliis quorum diocesani hanc nostram indulgenciam ratam habuerint, qui pro anima quondam carissime domine nostre domine Alianore illustris Regine Anglie, consortis domini nostri domini Edwardi dei gracia illustris Regis Anglie, cujus corporis in ecclesia conventuali Westmonasterii requiescit humatum, et pro animabus

¹ The attribution of these words to Christ is actually incorrect, for although He may have quoted them there is no record of His having done so. They occur in Ezekiel, xxxiii, 11.

omnium fidelium defunctorum orationem dominicam cum salutatione virginis gloriose dixerint mente pia , quadraginta de injunctis sibi penitentiis misericorditer relaxamus . In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum . Datum apud Vetus Templum London' III kalendas Decembris , anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation, granted at the mandate of the papal penitentiary (whose letter is given in full) to Hugh of Stamford, priest, rector of Netteswell, for having been ordained deacon without a proper title, being encouraged to do so by the Prioress and convent of S. Michael, Stamford, and for afterwards accepting the living of Netteswell and being ordained priest without a dispensation. Hugh was given a penance and a period of suspension.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilecto nobis in Christo Hugoni de Staumford' presbitero , rectori ecclesie de Netteswell' salutem , etc. Literas penitenciarum sacrosancte sedis apostolice pro te nobis directas recepimus sub hac forma:— Venerabili in Christo patri dei gracia episcopo Lincoln', frater Matheus miseratione divina titulo Sancti Laurencii in Damaso presbiter cardinalis , salutem et sinceram in domino caritatem . Sua nobis Hugo de Staumford' presbiter vestre diocesis lator presentium petitione monstravit , quod cum a bone memorie R. predecessore vestro per litteras decani Staumford' de ydoneitate ipsius laudabile testimonium perhibentis in subdiaconatum rite fuisset promotus , et desideraret ad alios ordines promoveri , per religiosas dominas¹ priorissam et conventum Sancti Michaelis Staumford ad preces cujusdam amici sui qui eundem H. postea jurare fecit quod dictas dominas pro titulo ad quem fuerat presentatus per eas nullatenus molestaret , eidem predecessori extitit presentatus , et per eum rite cum alias in diaconatum ordinatus , et demum hujusmodi non purgato ad titulum ecclesie de Netileswell' London' diocesis quam canonice adeptus fuerat per venerabilem patrem London' episcopum se fecit alias rite per omnia in presbiterum promoveri , ministrans per simplicitatem et juris ignoranciam postmodum in eisdem . Quare sedem apostolicam adhibens supplicavit humiliter sibi per eam super premissis misericorditer provideri . Ad vos igitur presbiterum remittentes eundem , auctoritate domini pape cujus penitenciarie curam gerimus , paternitati vestre committimus , quatinus injuncta sibi debita absolutione , premissa penitencia salutari , eo quod ad tempus prout expedire videritis a sic susceptorum ordinum executione suspensio , demum si bone fuerit conversationis et vite , super irregularitate dicto modo contracta et dictorum executione ordinum dispensetis misericorditer cum eodem , prout secundum deum anime ipsius saluti videritis

¹ Blank in MS.

expedire . Datum apud Urbem Veterem kalendis Septembris pontificatus domini Nicholai pape quarti anno quarto .—Attendentes igitur laudabile testimonium quod tibi super honesta conversatione , vita et moribus perhibetur , super irregularitate modo predicto contracta et tuorum ordinum executione , imposita tibi prius debita absolutione previa penitencia salutari , teque ad tempus jam effluxum a dictorum ordinum executione suspenso , auctoritate nobis in hac parte commissa tecum misericorditer dispensamus . In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum . Datum London III nonas Decembris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo.

[folio 41^v]

RATIFICATIO DIMISSIONIS AD FIRMAM. Ratification of the farming of the churches of Willoughby (Wyleby) and Grendon by their rectors to William of Holcot (Holecote) rector of Catworth (Cattewrth') from Candlemas to Michaelmas, 1292, and thereafter until three years were ended. Provision was to be made for the cure of souls. London, Old Temple, December 2, 1291.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to John son of John of Baldock (Baudak), acolyte, to receive all holy orders. London, Old Temple, December 5, 1291.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Thomas Burd of Nassington, deacon, to receive the priesthood. London, Old Temple, December 5, 1291.

PROCURATORIUM AD IMPETRANDUM.¹ Letters patent of William of Acre (Acra), vicar-choral in the cathedral of Lincoln, appointing Gilbert of Legbourne (Lekeburn'), clerk, as his proctor to seek a dispensation for bastardy in the papal curia. Sealed with the seal of Bishop Sutton, during the month of December, 1291.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS PRO CARTIS AMISSIS. To the Archdeacon of Huntingdon or his official, telling him to warn all those who had found a box containing charters and muniments, dropped by a canon of Hailes as he was travelling to London, to return the box at once, and to excommunicate them if they did not. London, December 5, 1291.

O. permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus archidiacono Hunt' vel ejus officiali salutem , etc. Cum nuper quidam canonicus abbacie de Hales per partes archidiaconatus vestri versus London' pro quibusdam negotiis dicte abbacie transiret , cartas et munimenta ipsius abbacie que secum pro expediendis premissis negotiis detulit in quodam cophino seu ciphario , casu fortune perdidit ,

¹ Drawing of a hand in the margin.

ut asserit , in partibus memoratis , compatiētes igitur ob religionis reverēciam tanto dispendio dicte domus , vobis mandamus quatinus in ecclesiis archidiaconatus vestri de quibus ex parte abbatis et conventus prefate domus fueritis requisiti , per tres dies dominicos aliasve solemnpnes proclamare faciatis , quod si aliquis predictas cartas invenerit , ipsis seu vobis eorum nomine sub pena excommunicationis eas restituat indilate , alioquin elapsis dictis diebus omnes ipsarum cartarum detentores , seu de ipsa detentione noticiam habentes , per alios tres dies dominicos seu solemnpnes nisi restitutionem faciant vel revelent , pulsatis campanis , candelis accensis , excommunicari solempniter et publice faciatis . Valete . Datum London', nonis Decembris, pontificatus nostri anno duodecimo.

DISPENSATIO CUM DIMISSORIIS. Dispensation, with a penance, to Thomas son of Richard de Ho of Dillington (Dilington') for having received all minor orders, the subdiaconate and the diaconate, without letters dimissory, from the Bishop of Bath and Wells. He was granted letters dimissory to receive the priesthood. London, Old Temple, December 7, 1291.

COMMISSIO JURISDICTIONIS ARCHIDIACONATUS STOWE. Commission to Master Benedict of Ferriby (Feriby) of the charge of the archdeaconry of Stow during the vacancy caused by the death of the last archdeacon, Master Durand of Lincoln. London, Old Temple, December 7, 1291.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to William of Barton, acolyte, to receive all holy orders. London, December 8, 1291.

LICENCIA CAPIENDI ASSISAM. Licence to Robert Malet and Gilbert de Roubir', the King's justices, to try in Advent a case of novel disseisin about a tenement in Wheathampstead (Whet-hamsted'), between William Cotel and Maud his wife, plaintiffs, and Walter son of Adam of Wheathampstead, Adam his brother, William Nowell and Alice his wife, Simon Nowell, Thomas of Wheathampstead, Geoffrey de la Wyke, Thomas de la Dene, Adam of Needham (Nedham) and Emma his wife, John of Westwick (Westwyk), William Bolum, William le Corveyser of Hemel Hempstead (Hamelhamstede) and Julian his wife, William of Norton, John of Lindley (Lynleye) and Emma his wife, defendants, provided that no precedent were claimed. London, Old Temple, December 8, 1291.

[folio 42]

CAPTIO. Request to the King for the arrest of John Druvassal of Stanton, who was reported by the Archdeacon of Northampton

to have remained obdurate for more than forty days under a sentence of excommunication, in spite of a warning from the dean of Haddon. London, Old Temple, December 10, 1291.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Luke son of Herbert of Hannington (Haniton'), clerk, to receive all holy orders. London, Old Temple, December 10, 1291.

CONCESSIO OFFICII TABELLIONATUS. Grant to John Ranulph of Feriby of the office of notary public, in virtue of a bull of Nicholas IV, empowering the bishop to appoint two such notaries and specifying the oath which they should take. The bull and a description of the proceedings are given in full. The witnesses were Master Jocelyn of Kirmington, Master Walter of Wootton, Master Robert of Kilworth, canons of Lincoln, Robert of Thorpe, Roger of Sixhills, Robert of Kibworth, John de Scalleby, priests, William of Anlaby notary public, Hugh of Harwood and John of Bayton. Wooburn, December 15, 1291.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilecto nobis in Christo Johanni Ranulphi de Feriby nostre diocesis clerico in minoribus ordinibus constituto, salutem in auctore salutis. Littere sanctissimi patris domini Nicholai pape quarti vera bulla et filo canapis bullatas, non abrasas, non vitiatas, nec in aliqua sui parte suspectas, mense Novembris anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo recepimus, formam que sequitur continentes:—Nicholaus episcopus servus servorum dei, venerabili patri O. episcopo Lincoln' salutem et apostolicam benedictionem. Ne contractuum memoria deperiret, inventum est tabellionatus officium quo contractus legitimi ad cautelam presentium et memoriam futurorum manu publica notarentur, unde interdum sedes apostolica predictum officium personis que ad illud reperientur ydonee concedere consuevit, ut illud prudenter et fideliter exequantur, et ad eas cum necesse fuerit in hiis que ad officium ipsum pertinent recurratur. Cum itaque sicut ex parte tua fuit propositum coram nobis, personarum que contractus legitimos, acta judicorum, et alia hujusmodi redigant in publica munimenta sepe defectus in tuis partibus habeatur, nos tuis supplicationibus inclinati, concedendi officium predictum duabus personis ydoneis quas ad illud post diligentem examinationem ydoneas esse repereris, prius ab eis juramento juxta formam presentibus annotatam recepto, plenam tibi auctoritate presentium concedimus facultatem. Forma autem juramenti quod persone ipsius prestabunt talis est:—Ego¹ ab hac hora in antea fidelis ero beato Petro, sancte Romane ecclesie ac domino pape Nicholao et successoribus ejus canonice intrantibus. Non ero in consilio vel auxilio, consensu vel facto ut vitam pendant

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vel membrum , vel capiantur mala captione . Consilium quod mihi per se aut litteras vel nuncium manifestabunt ad eorum dampna scienter nemini pandam . Si vero ad meam noticiam aliquid devenire contingat quod in periculum Romani pontificis aut ecclesie Romane vergeret seu grave dampnum , illud pro posse impediam , et si hoc impedire non possem , procurabo bona fide id ad noticiam domini pape perferri . Papatum Romane ecclesie ac regalia Sancti Petri et jura ipsius ecclesie , specialiter si que eadem ecclesia in civitate vel terra de qua sum oriundus habeat , adjutor ero ad defendendum vel retinendum seu recuperandum contra omnes homines . Tabellionatus officium fideliter exercebo . Contractus in quibus exigitur consensus partium fideliter faciam , nil addendo vel minuendo sine voluntate partium quod substantiam contractus immutet . Si vero in conficiendo aliquod instrumentum unius solius partis sit requirenda voluntas , hoc ipsum faciam , ut scilicet nil addam vel minuum quod immutet substantiam facti contra voluntatem ipsius . Instrumentum vero non conficiam de aliquo tractu in quo sciam intervenire seu intercedere vim vel fraudem . Contractus in prothocollum redigam , et postquam in prothocollum redigero maliciose non differam contra voluntatem illorum vel illius quorum est tractus super eo conficere publicum instrumentum salvo in eo justo et consueto salario , sic me deus adjuvet et hec sancta dei ewangelia.— Datum apud Urbem Veterem decimo kalendas Octobris pontificatus nostri anno quarto.—Nos igitur concessam nobis in hac parte potestatem in persona tua cujus pericia et circumspectio ex noticia familiari te nobis multipliciter recommendatus ad presens initiare volentes , predictum tabellionatus officium ad quod te per diligentem examinationem reperimus ydoneum , juramento prius a te secundum formam predictarum litterarum apostolicarum recepto , tibi ut illud prudenter et fideliter exequaris et ad te cum necesse fuerit in hiis que ad officium ipsum pertinent recurratur [*folio 42^v*] duximus concedendum . In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum . Actum et datum apud Wuburn' XVIII kalendas Januarii anno domini supradicto , presentibus magistris Gocelino de Kirnington', Waltero de Wutton' et Roberto de Kivel-ingwrth' canonicis ecclesie Lincoln', dominis Roberto de Thorp' , Rogero de Sixil' , Roberto de Kibwrth' et Johanne de Scalleby presbiteris , Willelmo de Anlauby notario publico ac Hugone de Harwud' et Johanne de Bayton' clericis . Verba autem quibus usus est episcopus in concessione officii tabellionatus de qua in precedenti littera continetur sunt hec :—In dei nomine amen . Nos Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus a sanctissimo patre domino Nichalao papa quarto concedendi officium tabellionatus duabus personis ydoneis potestatem specialem habentes , te Johannem Ranulphi de Feriby nostre diocesis clericum , cujus pericia et mores commendabiles per familiarem conversationem et sufficientem litteraturam per diligentem examinationem sumus experti , ad

dictum officium usquequam ydoneum reperientes , tibi in minoribus ordinibus constituto officium tabellionatus prudenter ac fideliter exequendum , ut ad te cum necesse fuerit in hiis que ad officium ipsum pertinent recurratur , juramento prius a te secundum formam mandati apostolici nobis in hac parte directi reperto , commissa nobis apostolica auctoritate concedimus supradicta , per hanc concessionem nostram initiantes nunc primitus hujusmodi potestatem . Datum apud Wuburn' XVIII kalendas Januarii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo , presentibus magistris Gocelino de Kirnington' , Waltero de Wutton' , Roberto de Kivelingwrth' , canonicis Lincoln' , dominis Roberto de Thorp' , Roberto de Kibwrth' , Johanne de Scalleby presbiteris , Hugone de Harwud' , Johanne de Bayton' clericis ac Willelmo de Anlauby publico notario . Et juravit dictus Johannes super sacrosancta ewangelia secundum formam in littera apostolica contentam.

DIMISSORIE WILLELMI DE ASKEBY. Letters dimissory to William of Ashby, acolyte, to receive all holy orders from the Bishop of Ely. Wooburn, December 18, 1291.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS PRO RECTORE ECCLESIE DE CRAUNFELD'. To the official of the Archdeacon of Bedford or the dean of Fleet, ordering them to go to Cranfield and investigate a complaint that certain people had seized the goods of the rector, Master Thomas of Pontesbury, while he was taking sanctuary in the church because of a false charge of homicide, and moreover that they had prevented the said Thomas from obtaining food and had tormented him in other ways. If the complaint were found to be true, everyone concerned in the attack on the rector and his goods was to be warned and if necessary excommunicated, and all goods belonging to the rector or the church were to be sequestered except for a small allowance to provide necessities for the rector. A report was to be made to the bishop who was already displeased because one clerk had been forced to abjure the realm. Wooburn, December 17, 1291.

O permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilecto in Christo filio¹ officiali¹ archidiaconi Bedeford' vel decano de Flitte salutem , etc. Licet omnes de domibus , maneriis , grangiis vel aliis locis ecclesiasticis ratione ecclesiarum vel beneficiorum suorum ecclesiasticorum pertinentibus , preter voluntatem aut permissionem dominorum vel eorum qui sunt ejusmodi rerum custodiis deputati quicquam consumere vel auferre aut contrectare presumentes , neque confugientibus ad ecclesias pro tutela et immunitate ecclesiastica optinendis victum necessarium ministrari temere prohibentes , in quo necessitatibus similes reputantur ,

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libertatem etiam ecclesiasticam alias nequiter violantes , ipso facto majori sint excommunicatione ligati , nonnulli tamen crudeles et inhumani viri nobis totaliter ignoti , dei timore contempto et ecclesie reverencia prorsus abjecta , bona ecclesiastica magistri Thome de Pontesbir' rectoris ecclesie de Craumfeld' ad eandem ecclesiam pro tuitione corporis sui inibi optinenda metu pene carceralis pro crimine homicidii sibi falso impositi ut pretendit , ei per laycam potestatem imminentis si exiret , fugientis et sese recipientis in ea , immo potius bona ipsius ecclesie in propria manso ejus existencia , de loco ipso sine voluntate eorum quorum permissio et auctoritas de jure requiri deberent in hoc casu , illicite amovere et auferre ac contrectare temeritate propria presumpserunt , dictoque confuge in prefata ecclesia existenti victus necessaria inhumaniter subtraxerunt , ipsum in persona alias per excogitatum maliciam et machinationem variam cruciantes , in libertatis ecclesiastice prejudicium , animarum suarum grande periculum et vehemens scandalum plurimorum prout insinuatio clamosa nostris insonuit auribus e vicino . Nos vero attendentes quod si ea que male usurpantur negligimus , excessus viam aliis aperuimus , vobis mandamus in virtute obediencie firmiter injungentes quatinus ad ecclesiam de Craumfeld' sublato cujuslibet dilationis obstaculo , associatis vobiscum rectoribus , vicariis et capellanis parochialibus vicinis in numero competenti personaliter attendentes , si dicti rectoris bona pretacta illicite consumpta invenieritis vel ablata , hujusmodi presumptores in genere moneatis quod de hujusmodi excessu satisfaciant absque mora , dicta bona taliter ablata que extant et estimationem non extantium infra octo dies a tempore noticie monitionis hujusmodi plenius restituendo , et impetrata absolutione a sententia excommunicationis quam dampnabiliter incurrerunt penitendo humiliter de presumptis , alioquin omnes malefactores hujusmodi eisque consilium et auxilium in hoc facto dampnato scienter prestantes , in dicta ecclesia de Craumfeld' et aliis ecclesiis decanatus vestri tribus diebus dominicis et festivis intra missarum solempnia , pulsatis campanis , candelis accensis , excommunicatos esse per vos seu alios sollempniter et publice nuncietis , omnes dicto rectori infra ecclesiam de Craumfeld' predictam existenti victualia ad congruam vite sustentationem competentia per maliciam subtrahentes , sibi que alicujusmodi molestiam seu [*folio 43*] injuriam in loco predicto clam vel palam in prejudicium ecclesiastice libertatis inferentes , per censuram ecclesiasticam ratione previa compescentes . Fructus etiam et proventus dicte ecclesie nunc inventos et decetero provenientes una cum omnibus bonis ecclesiasticis ejusdem rectoris artius sequestretis , donec a nobis aliud habueritis in mandatis . Volumus tamen quod de ipsis necessaria sustentatio per nostrum sequestrationem interim ministretur eidem . Vos autem qualiter hujusmodi mandatum nostrum fueritis executi , quousque per inquisitionem quam per

vos mandamus fieri diligentius in premissis culpabiles inveneritis , nos litteris vestris patentibus , harum seriem et processum vestrum totum continentibus , certificetis tempore oportuno , attendentes quod negligenciam vestram in hoc quod quemdam clericum dicte ecclesie de Craumfeld' ad eam fugientem regnum more layci abjurare nobis insciis permisisti debita animadversione punire intendimus cum viderimus oportunum . Valete . Datum apud Wuburn' XVI kalendas Januarii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo et pontificatus nostri duodecimo.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS CONTRA OCCUPANTES ECCLESIAM DE HALE. To the official of the Archdeacon of Lincoln and the dean of Lafford, ordering them to warn and if necessary excommunicate all those lay persons who had seized the vacant church of Great Hale, and to cite them to appear before the bishop at Wycombe for judgement on the first juridical day after the octaves of the feast of S. Hilary. A report was to be made to the bishop. Wooburn, December 21, 1291.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilectis in Christo filiis¹ officiali Archidiaconi Lincoln' et¹ decano de Lafford' salutem , etc . Auribus nostris clamor validus insonuit e vicino , quod nonnulli laici sacrilegi presumptores inter rem sacram et prophanam , ut videtur , nullatenus distinguentes , parochialem ecclesiam de Hale de jure et de facto vacantem , cujus dispositio in spiritualibus et temporalibus ac tuitio ne injurias patiatur aut dampna incurrat eo specialius ad nos spectat , quo proprio noscitur rectore impresentiarum seu gubernatore carere , armis invadere et ipsum locum sacrum potenter occupare presumpserunt et eam non sine nota sacrilegii adhuc detinent taliter occupatam , ad dei irreverenciam , libertatis ecclesiastice prejudicium , juris episcopalis contemptum , manifestum et vehemens scandalum plurimorum . Nos igitur tam sacrilege temeritatis excessum ex debito officii nostri propter perniciem exempli perfecto odio persequi cupientes , vobis et utrique vestrum per se in virtute obediencie sub pena excommunicationis firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus omnes rectores decanatus ejusdem loci residentes , vicarios et capellanos parochiales qui commode possunt vocari ad locum predictum , sublato cujuslibet dilationis obstaculo facientes plenius convocari , sacrilegos invasores et illicitos occupatores predictos ac libertatis ecclesiastice violatores sentenciam majoris excommunicationis ipso facto dampnabiliter incurrentes , per vos seu alios nomine vestro justo impedimento vobis obstante , adjunctis viris ecclesiasticis suprafatis in genere moneatis quod dictam ecclesiam ejusdem ministris qui nostri sunt censendi ab omnimoda occupatione et invasione temeraria liberam et immunem protinus dimittentes ,

¹ Blank in MS.

de suis iniquis presumptionibus deo et ecclesie satisfaciant sine mora penitentes humiliter et contriti . Alioquin omnes hujusmodi transgressores notorios hujusmodi monitionibus non parentes , cum suis auctoribus et fautoribus in dicta ecclesia , vel si ad illam liber non pateat accessus , alias in villa de Hale necnon in singulis ecclesiis decanatus predicti et si dictorum malefactorum exegerit pertinacia , in singulis ecclesiis archidiaconatus Lincoln' singulis diebus dominicis et festivis quamdiu prefati sacrilegi viri sua malicia perstiterint indurati , intra missarum solempina , pulsatis campanis , candelis accensis , solempniter in genere excommunicetis aut excommunicatos esse faciatis puplice nunciari . De personis et nominibus dictorum violatorum ecclesiastice libertatis diligentius inquirentes , omnes et singulos quos culpabiles inveneritis in premissis peremptorie citetis quod proximo die juridico post octavas Sancti Hillarii proxime futuras in parochiale ecclesia de Wycumbe compareant coram nobis vel commissario nostro penam pro suis demeritis recepturi condignam . Vos autem qualiter hoc mandatum nostrum fueritis executi , nos litteris vestris patentibus harum seriem et modum processus vestri ac nomina omnium quos occasione premissa duxeritis citandos et culpam uniuscuique per vos in hac parte vocati expressius continentes certificetis tempore oportuno . Valete . Datum apud Wouburn' XII kalendas Januarii , anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo et pontificatus nostri anno XII.

NEGOTIUM NOMINATIONIS MAGISTRI SIMONIS DE GANDAVO IN CANCELLARIUM OXON'.¹ Confirmation of Master Simon de Gandavo in the office of chancellor of the University of Oxford, in the person of his proctor Master Richard of Bradley. Fingest, December 30, 1291. (A previous attempt to obtain Master Simon's confirmation had failed, since the bishop, feeling that Master Simon was too busy and not sufficiently strong to undertake the work, had sent his proctors, Master Thomas of Cobham and Master John de Sera, back to the university with the request that the masters should make another choice or at least obtain Master Simon's consent. Wooburn, December 17, 1291.)

Memorandum quod XVI kalendas Januarii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo apud Wuburn' juxta Wycumb' episcopo existente in manso rectoris ibidem in camera mane venerunt ad eum magister Thomas de Cobeham in decretis et magister Johannes de Sera in artibus apud Oxon' actualiter tunc regentes , episcopo exhibentes litteram universitatis Oxon' clausam sub hac forma :—Reverendo patri in Christo ac domino , domino O. dei gracia Lincoln' episcopo , universitatis Oxon' cetus humilis magistrorum , salutem et obedientiam debitam et devotam . Affectionis paterne dilectionem habere vos condecet circa querentes in agro studii sciencie margaritam que

¹ A drawing of the head of a man wearing a scholar's cap appears in the margin.

domum dei multipliciter convenustat , in hiis precipue que non possunt absque denegatione gracie ac juris injuria denegari . Hinc est quod cum magister Simon de Gandavo doctor sacre theologie a nostra universitate [*folio 43v*] ad officium cancellarie per cessionem magistri Johannis de Monemuta vacantis concorditer sit electus , a vestre paternitatis benevolencia ejus electionem more solito petimus confirmari . Talem ergo si placet vos exhibeatis in hac parte , ut filiorum vestrorum sinceritas augeatur , et paterne dilectionis caritas comprobetur . Valeat paternitas vestra reverenda tempore diuturno.—Que perlecta et plenius intellecta , quesitum fuit a dictis magistris an alia haberent exhibenda pro negotio pro quo venerunt . Et responderunt quod non . Deinde ipsis secedentibus et episcopo aliquantulum deliberante cum suis , iterum quesitum fuit a magistris predictis utrum haberent aliquod procuratorium nomine universitatis ad proseguendum negotium supradictum , qui dixerunt quod non , adicientes quod non fuit moris , ut credebant . Cujus pretexto examinata fuerunt registra priora de commissionibus prius factis in hoc casu , per que constabat procuratoria pro prosecutione hujusmodi negotii prius sepius fuisse transmissa . Fuit insuper quesitum a magistris prefatis quare dictus archidiaconus ad officium cancellarie nominatus in propria persona non venit ex quo hoc facere comode potuit saltem ad tam propinqua . Qui ad hoc dicebant quod persona ipsa episcopo fuerat satis nota . Demum diverberato negatio hinc et inde , et precipue super eo quod dictus nominatus non venit personaliter , episcopus tandem finaliter respondit quod non obstante defectu procuratorii et absencia persone archidiaconi predicti ea vice de gracia speciali dum tamen alias non trahetur ad consequenciam hujusmodi commissio facienda absenti , ipsos libentius expediret , nisi hoc refragaretur , quod prefatus archidiaconus nominationi de se facte omnino dissenserat sicut episcopus asseruit se accepisse pro certo , et ideo rogavit universitatem per dicto magistris vocetenus , quod debilitati et multiplici occupationi dicti archidiaconi compatibles , alium ad dictum officium nominarent , vel si hoc nollent , procurarent consensum dicti archidiaconi et postmodum mitterent ad eundem episcopum pro commissione habenda , qui etiam promisit magistris predictis , quod si prefatus archidiaconus ad eum accederet sicut erat venturus ad Natalem sequens , pro consensu abhibendo assumptioni officii predicti , diceret efficaciter quod sentiret . Tandem III kalendas Januarii anno predicto apud Tyngehirst venit ex parte universitatis predictae magister Ricardus de Bradele procurator ejusdem , petens ab episcopo commissionem concedi et fieri archidiacono prenotato . Cumque constaret episcopo per collationem habitam cum eodem archidiacono medio tempore prius labente , de ipsius dissensu priori mutato in consensum , commissionem fieri precepit , que facta extitit , et dicto magistro Ricardo magna sigilla signata tradita sub hac forma :—

COMMISSIO CANCELLARIE UNIVERSITATIS OXON.¹ Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus , dilectis in Christo filiis magistris et scholaribus universitatis Oxon' salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Ad instanciam vestre devotionis officium cancellarie universitatis vestre magistro Simoni de Gandavo archidiacono Oxon' , in theologia inter vos actualiter nunc regenti , ita quod hujusmodi commissio sibi absenti facta ad consequenciam alias non trahatur , ad presens de gracia speciali committimus per presentes , donec aliud vobis super hoc dederimus in mandatis . Valet . Datum apud Tyngehurst , III kalendas Januarii , anno domini M. C.. nonagesimo primo . Vide plus de hac materia in sequenti folio in parte alba.

COMMISSIO. Commission to Master Walter of Wootton (Wutton') canon of Lincoln, together with any responsible person from Bedfordshire whom he might choose, to discharge the executors of Sir Simon of Pattishall (Patishull'), Sir John of Pattishall and Sir Hugh Boszard, knights. Fingest, December 26, 1291.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS CONTRA DOMINUM WILLELMUM DE TURVILE. To the official of the Archdeacon of Buckingham, ordering him to warn and if necessary excommunicate Sir William of Turville, living at Weston Turville, for molesting the dean of Wendover (who had come to cite him to answer for horrible sacrilege in the church of Penn) and stealing his palfrey. The official was to cite Sir William to appear before the bishop for judgement, and to report to the bishop by letter. Fingest, January 2, 1292.

O. etc , officiali¹ archidiaconi Buck' salutem , etc . Non est qui dubitet debita eo gravius punienda , quo magis in libertatis ecclesiastice dispendium et prelatorum jurisdictionis contemptum ac animarum periculum committuntur . Sane² decanus de Wendovere ad domum seu manerium domini Willelmi de Turvile apud Weston' nuper accedens , eundem dominum Willelmum pro enormi sacrilegio in ecclesia de Penna ab eo ut dicebitur³ commisso , quod certis die et loco coram nobis compararet , citavit , nostrum in hoc exequendo mandatum , dictus vero dominus Willelmus cum quibusdam familiaribus suis et aliis irreverenciam , molestiam ac injuriam inferre matri sue ecclesie non formidans , qui ab hujusmodi eam deberet pretextu ordinis militaris tueri , palfridum ejusdem decani per excogitatum maliciam cepit seu capi et ad quemdam palam infra septa manerii sui predicti ligari precepit , obprobriis et injuriis ipsius decani multipliciter afficiendo personam in ecclesiastice libertatis prejudicium , episcopalis jurisdictionis contemptum , predicti decani dampnum non modicum et scandalum plurimorum . Quocirca vobis firmiter injungendo

¹ Drawing of a hand in the margin.

² Blank in MS.

³ *Sic.* No account of the crime committed at Penn is, however, given in the letter.

mandamus quatinus assumptis vobiscum sex capellanis albis indutis , ad ecclesiam de Weston' personaliter accedentes , prefatum dominum Willelmum cujus delictum tam notorium est in hac parte , quod totam vicinam fecit testem , necnon omnes illos qui dictum palefridum sic ceperunt seu capienti vel [folio 44] capere volenti opem seu consilium prestiterunt moneatis et salubriter inducatis quod dictus dominus Willelmus predictum palefridum infra tres dies a tempore monitionis sibi facte¹ decano restituat memorato , quodque tam ipse quam complices sui in premissis de tantis contempta et injuriis deo et ecclesie sue illatis satisfacere studeant ut tenentur , alioquin ipsum dominum Willelmum nominatim , suosque complices in genere per aliquem diem festivum prout videritis oportunum , pulsatis campanis , candelis accensis , solempniter et publice majoris excommunicationis sententia innodatis , quam sententiam in singulis ecclesiis archidiaconatus Buck' in forma predicta volumus solempniter publicari . Citetis etiam predictum dominum Willelmum necnon et predictos sibi adherentes in hac parte de quorum nominibus per legitimam inquisitionem quam super hoc fieri precepimus vel alias certiorari poteritis quoquomodo quod compareant coram nobis certo die pro vestro arbitrio sibi statuendo ubicumque tunc fuerimus in archidiaconatu Buck' super premissis responsuri , et digna pro meritis recepturi , ac facturi quod justicia suadebit . Et quid super hiis omnibus et singulis duxeritis faciendum , nos litteris vestris patentibus harum seriem et processum ac nomina dicto domino Willelmo adherentium in facto predicto plenius continentibus certiores reddatis tempore opportuno . Valete . Datum apud Tingehirst' IIII nonas Januarii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo.

POTESTAS COMMITTENDI MINISTERIUM RECONCILIATIONIS ECCLESiarum ET CIMETERIORUM PER EFFUSIONEM SANGUINIS MACULATORUM. Note of a dispensation granted by Nicholas IV to Bishop Sutton at the request of Master Stephen of Tathwell, the bishop's proctor at the papal curia, and brought from Rome by John of Stow. This dispensation, which is given in full, granted to the bishop the right of delegating to others the power of reconciling holy places defiled by bloodshed or sexual intercourse, since such violations² occurred so frequently that he had no time to perform all the reconciliations himself. He was, however, to bless the holy water used for the purpose. The dispensation was dated at Orvieto, September 13, 1291, and arrived in England in the following November. It was to be valid for five years. On January 2, 1292, at Fingest, commissions were issued to the Abbot of S. Mary de Pratis,

¹ Blank in MS.

² Every instance of violation mentioned in the Register was caused by bloodshed.

Leicester, and the Archdeacon of Leicester, to reconcile the churchyard of Sibstone, polluted by bloodshed, and to the Abbot of Eynsham, to reconcile the churchyard of Deddington, similarly polluted.

Mense Novembris anno XII, veniens de curia Romana Johannes de Stowa, cursor episcopi, detulit episcopo quamdam litteram apostolicam per magistrum Stephanum de Tawell' procuratorem episcopi in Romana curia impetratam, sub hac forma :—Nicholaus episcopus servus servorum dei, venerabili fratri Olivero episcopo Lincoln' salutem et apostolicam benedictionem. Sincere devotionis affectus quem ad nos et apostolicam sedem habere dinosceris nos inducit ut petitiones tuas ad exauditionis gratiam admittamus. Cum itaque sicut ex parte tua fuit propositum coram nobis frequenter contingit ecclesias et cimiteria tue diocesis per effusionem sanguinis et seminis violari, tibi que difficile sit et grave ad ea reconcilianda accedere cum eadem diocesis non modicum est diffusa, nos tuis supplicationibus inclinati, ut ecclesias et cimiteria memorata quotiens ea taliter violari contigerit, et tu personaliter comode reconciliare nequiveris, possis per presbiterum in dignitate constitutum ea reconciliari facere, aqua prius ut moris est per te benedicta, tibi auctoritate presentium plenam concedimus facultatem. Volumus tamen quod constitutionem que precepit id per episcopos fieri tantum per hoc imposterum nullum prejudicium generetur, presentibus post quinquennium minime valituris. Datum apud Urbem Veterem, idibus Septembris, pontificatus nostri anno quarto.—Cujus quidem littere auctoritate exivit postmodum quedam commissio sub hac forma :—Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilectis in Christo filiis abbati Beate Marie de Pratis Leycestr', ac Archidiacono Leycestr' salutem, gratiam et benedictionem. Cum a sede apostolica nobis specialiter sit indultum, ut ecclesias et cimiteria nostre diocesis per effusionem sanguinis aut seminis violata, ad que reconcilianda personaliter comode declinare nequimus, per presbiterum in dignitate constitutum ea facere reconciliari possimus, ad cimiterium ecclesie de Sibbesdon' per sanguinis effusionem inibi factam temere violatum, vel ipsam ecclesiam, aqua per nos solempniter exorzizata quam vobis destinamus ad presens, reconciliandum, utrique vestrum divisim vices nostras committimus per presentes. Valete. Datum apud Tyngheirst' IIII nonas Januarii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo et pontificatus nostri duodecimo.—Sub forma etiam consimili commisit episcopus eisdem die, anno et loco vices suas Abbati de Eynesham ad reconciliandum cimiterium de Dadington' similiter per effusionem sanguinis violatum.

EXCUSATIO A CONSECRATIONE DOMINI ROFFENSIS ELECTI. A letter of Bishop Sutton to Archbishop Pecham, signifying his assent to the forthcoming consecration of the Bishop of Rochester on the

feast of the Epiphany (January 6), and excusing himself from attendance on grounds of ill-health. Fingest, January 3, 1292.

INDULGENCIA. Grant of ten days' indulgence, with a ratification of all other indulgences granted or to be granted hereafter for the same purpose, to all those who should pray for the souls of Roald son of Alan and Isabel his wife, whose bodies are buried at Aston. Fingest, January 6, 1292.

[*folio 44^v*]

NEGOTIUM NOMINATIONIS MAGISTRI SIMONIS DE GANDAVO IN CANCELLARIUM, ET DEBET ISTA INACCITATIO CONTINUARI CUM ALIA INACCITATIONE QUE EST IN PRECEDENTI FOLIO IN PARTE NIGRA DE EADEM MATERIA. Note of a slight alteration, made at the request of the regent-masters through their proctor Master Richard of Bradley, in the wording of the formula confirming Master Simon de Gandavo as chancellor. The intention of the regent-masters was to weaken the precedent by which the chancellor had to appear in person for confirmation. Bishop Sutton made it clear to the proctor that he saw through this ruse and would not allow it to succeed. Fingest, January 6, 1292.

Deinde VIII idus Januarii anno predicto dictus magister Ricardus de Bradele rediens apud Tyngehirst exposuit episcopo qualiter magistri universitatis Oxon' in eundem magistrum Ricardum exscanduerant pro eo quod portavit commissionem prescriptam pro quibusdam novis verbis in ea insertis, illis scilicet 'Ita quod hujusmodi commissio facta absenti ad consequenciam alias non trahatur', et ideo supplicavit humiliter ut episcopus sibi confuso quodammodo pie compatiens illa verba nova de dicta commissione tollere dignaretur, presertim cum illa verba subsequencia 'de gracia speciali' pro intentione episcopi quod non teneatur de necessitate committere absenti sufficienter operarentur ut dicebat, episcopus vero deliberato aliquantulum cum suis, dicto magistro Ricardo cum tanta humiliatione supplicanti et instanti pro mutatione dictorum verborum admodum compatiens, illa amoveri precepit, concedens commissionem fieri sub hac forma:—Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilectis in Christo filiis magistris et scholaribus universitatis Oxon' salutem, gratiam et benedictionem. Ad instanciam vestre devotionis officium cancellarie universitatis vestre magistro Simoni de Gandavo archidiacono Oxon' in theologia inter vos actualiter nunc regenti, ad presens de gracia speciali committimus per presentes, donec aliud vobis super hoc dederimus in mandatis. Valete. Datum apud Tyngehirst VIII idus Januarii, anno domino M. CC. nonagesimo primo. —Demum dixit episcopus prefato magistro Ricardo 'Nos vidimus qualiter latet anguis in cordibus magistrorum Oxon' et quomodo nituntur reverti ad

antiquam stultitiam suam , et ideo dicas eis ex parte nostra , et nisi feceris nos faciemus in proximo adventu nostro ad locum illum si vixerimus , quod tantum fecerunt ista vice , quod in proxima nominatione cancellarius veniet , sive dici debeat electus sive nominatus , ad nos personaliter , sive simus in propinquo sive in remoto , secundum quod motus animi nostri nobis ingerit in presenti' .

COMMISSIO CONSTABULARIE DE LAFFORD'. Appointment of Elias de Farewath' as constable of Sleaford castle. Fingest, January 9, 1292.

LITTERA MISSA ABBATI RAMESEYE PRO SENTENCIA DE CRAUNFELD'. To the Abbot of Ramsey, who had written to complain about the sentence of excommunication against those who had injured the rector of Cranfield, suspending the sentence as a matter of grace until a fuller investigation could be made. Wooburn near Wycombe, January 16, 1292.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilecto in Christo filio Abbati Rameseye salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Licet sententia per nos denunciata , de qua fecistis in vestra littera mentionem , illos tantummodo ligaverit qui illicite et in prejudicium libertatis ecclesiastice bona ecclesiastica occupare temere presumpserunt , que denunciatio non videtur calumpnie subjacere justo iudicio rationis , ex benignitatis tamen mansuetudine et ob domini nostri regis reverenciam de ejusdem executione supersederi fecimus , donec quid tenendum sit in hac parte sine cujusquam prejudicio fuerit ratione comite uberius declaratum . Valete . Datum apud Wuburn' juxta Wycumb' XVII kalendas Februarii , anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo et pontificatus nostri duodecimo.

CERTIFICATORIUM MISSUM JUSTICIARIIS IN BANCO PRO JOHANNE LE USSER ET UXORE SUA. Testimonial to the fact that Joan wife of John le Usser had previously been lawfully married to Thomas Wauncy. The testimonial was issued in response to a royal writ (given in full) in which it was stated that John and Joan le Usser were suing Ralph of Glantlees (Glenleye) and Joan his wife for the dower of Joan le Usser, which consisted of the ninth part of a messuage of eleven bovates, half an acre of meadow and six shillings in rents, all in Langthorpe (Langlingthorp') in the county of Yorkshire. Wooburn near Wycombe, January 18, 1291.

COMMISSIO AD DEPUTANDUM CURATOREM RECTORI DE BLETCHESDON'. To the Archdeacon of Oxford, telling him to provide a suitable coadjutor for Thomas Chapel (de Capella), rector of Bletchington, who was reported to be mad. Fingest, January 22, 1292.

[*folio 45*]

PRO NAVIS CONDUCTIONE. Letters patent announcing that a boat belonging to Robert Castle of London was coming from Henley to London with a cargo of goods to provide for the bishop's stay in London during the time of the forthcoming parliament and convocation, and requesting help and safe-conduct for the said boat and for Robert. Fingest, January 27, 1292.

Universis has litteras inspecturis , Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus salutem in omnium salvatore . Ad omnium noticiam volumus pervenire , quod nos navem Roberti ad Castellum de London' pro necessariis nostris ad civitatem London' a partibus de Henle vehendis , instanti parlamento durante et ulterius donec proximum concilium prelatorum Anglie London' celebrandum terminetur , habemus certius ex conducto . Quocirca universitatem vestram rogamus in domino , quatinus dictum Robertum cum nave sua nostris obsequiis intendere durante tempore supradicto libere permittatis . Datum apud Tingehest VI kalendas Februarii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo.

PRO TESTAMENTO EPISCOPI. Note that Bishop Sutton's will was sealed by Master Jocelyn of Kirmington, keeper of the seals, in the presence of the bishop himself, William of Stockton canon of Lincoln, Robert of Thorpe, John de Scalleby, Robert of Kibworth, Roger of Sixhills and Robert of Warsop, priests, William of Anlaby, John of Bayton, Hugh of Harwood and John of Feriby, clerks. Fingest, in the bishop's chamber after vespers, January 28, 1292.

V kalendas Februarii anno XII apud Tyngelhest condidit episcopum testamentum suum , qui eodem die post vespas in camera sua sedens idem testamentum fecit ibidem¹ per magistrum Gocelinum Archidiaconum Stowye qui tunc sigillorum suorum custodiam habuit consignari , advocando testimonium dieti domini archidiaconi , domini Willelmi de Stokton' canonici ecclesie Lincoln' , Roberti de Thorp' , Johannis de Scalleby , Roberti de Kibbewurth' , Rogeri de Sixil et Roberti de Warsop' presbiterorum , domini Willelmi de Anlauby , Johannis de Bayton' , Hugonis de Harewode et Johannis de Feriby , clericorum , qui omnes presentes in consignatione protinus affuerunt.

INDULGENCIA. Grant of twenty days' indulgence to all confessed and contrite persons who should contribute to the upkeep or repair of Henley bridge, with a ratification of all other indulgences granted or to be granted hereafter for the same purpose. Fingest, January 30, 1292.

¹ Interlined.

LICENCIA CAPIENDI ASSISAM. Licence to Sir Gilbert of Thornton and Sir Elias of Beckingham (Bekingham) and their fellow-justices to hold, in Lent, an assize of mort d'ancestor between John son of Bernard of Middleton (Middelton'), plaintiff, and Peter of Norfolk (Northfolch'), living in Stamford (Staumford'), defendant, concerning a messuage and twenty-one acres of land in Stamford. London, Old Temple, February 12, 1292.

LICENCIA CAPIENDI ASSISAM. Licence to Sir Robert of Hertford and his fellow-justices to hold, in Lent, an assize of novel disseisin between Ralph son of Walter of Keelby (Keleby), plaintiff, and Robert de Charnels of Stallingborough (Stalingburg'), defendant, concerning the common pasture in Stallingborough. London, Old Temple, February 13, 1292.

LICENCIA CAPIENDI ASSISAM. Licence to Sir Robert Malet, Sir William of Burford (Bereford') and Sir Gilbert de Roubir', justices, to hold, in Lent before Passion Sunday, an assize of novel disseisin between William of Stockton (Stoketon') rector of Wheathampstead (Whethamsted'), plaintiff, and Henry Grapmel and others, defendants, concerning a messuage in Wheathampstead. London, Old Temple, February 13, 1292.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Nicholas of Forest Hill (Forest-hull'), deacon, to receive the priesthood. London, Old Temple, February 14, 1292.

LICENCIA CAPIENDI ASSISAM. Licence to Sir Gilbert of Thornton, Sir Robert of Hertford and Sir Richard of Creeping Hall (Greppinges), justices, to hold, in Lent, an assize of novel disseisin between John son of Sir Roger de Mowbray (Moubray), plaintiff, and William of Burnham (Brunham) and others, defendants, about certain free tenements in Owston (Ouston'), Kinnard's Ferry (Kiniardfery), Kelfield (Kelkefeld') and other places.¹ London, Old Temple, February 14, 1292.

[*folio 45v*]

[No HEADING.] Letters dimissory to Gilbert of Louth (Luda) acolyte. London, Old Temple, February 15, 1292.

LICENCIA CAPIENDI ASSISAM. Licence to Sir John of Mettingham and Sir Elias of Beckingham (Bekingham), justices, to hold, in Lent before Passion Sunday, an assize of novel disseisin between William son of William le Moynes of Raveley (Ravele), plaintiff, and John of Wistow (Wystowe) and others, defendants, concerning a tenement in Raveley, and another assize of novel disseisin between Oliver of Staploe (Stapilho) and Elizabeth his wife, plaintiffs, and

¹ The entry is unfinished.

Robert son of William le Moyne of Raveley and others, defendants, concerning a tenement in Wood Walton (Walton juxta Sautr'). London, Old Temple, February 15, 1292.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Henry de Cheyne of Chalfont S. Giles (Chalfunt Sancti Egidii), acolyte, to receive all holy orders. London, Old Temple, February 15, 1292.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Thomas of Willoughby (Wilgby), acolyte, to receive all holy orders. London, Old Temple, February 15, 1292.

LICENCIA CAPIENDI ASSISAM. Licence to Sir Hugh of Cressingham to take the place of Sir John of Mettingham in holding the assises last mentioned above, since the plaintiffs objected to Sir John of Mettingham. London, Old Temple, February 16, 1292.

CAPTIO. Request to the King for the arrest of Richard son of Geoffrey Frunam of Church Brampton (Brampton' juxta Norhamt') who had remained obdurate for more than forty days after his excommunication by the Archdeacon of Northampton, in spite of a warning from the archdeacon's official. The request was sent in spite of the fact that no letter from the said archdeacon had arrived. London, Old Temple, February 16, 1292.

PRO DEFECTIBUS ECCLESIE DE CATHORP'. To the official of the Archdeacon of Lincoln, telling him to visit the church of Caythorpe and inspect all the defects in the chancel, books, vestments and ornaments, and those in the rectory barns, and to have them repaired at the expense of Robert of Walgrave (Waldegrave) the former rector. London, Old Temple, February 15, 1292.

LICENCIA STUDENDI. Licence to Master William of Dalton, rector of S. Mary's, Binbrook, to study abroad until the following Michaelmas. London, Old Temple, February 18, 1292.

LICENCIA CAPIENDI ASSISAS. Licences to Sir William of Thornton and Sir Thomas of Burnham, justices, to hold, in Lent, all sworn assises and recognitions begun by royal writ in the county of Lincoln, and to Sir Robert Malet and Sir William of Burford (Bereford'), justices, to hold in Lent an assize of novel disseisin between Robert son of John le Ruse of Hales, plaintiff, and Robert le Rus of Cople (Coupol') defendant, concerning a tenement in Cople. London, Old Temple, February 19, 1292.

LICENCIA STUDENDI. Licence to John rector of Helmdon (Helmedon') to study theology abroad until the following Michaelmas year. London, Old Temple, February 19, 1292.

LICENCIA CAPIENDI ASSISAM. Licence to Sir Robert of Hertford and Sir Philip of Kyme, justices, to hold, in Lent, an assize of darrein presentment between the Abbot of Bardney, plaintiff, and John of Kyme, defendant, concerning the church of Great Hale (Magna Hale). London, Old Temple, February 20, 1292.

LICENCIA CAPIENDI ASSISAM. Licence to Sir Robert Malet and his fellow-justices to hold, in Lent, an assize of novel disseisin between Lady Bohun (Boun), plaintiff, and Geoffrey de Lucy, defendant, concerning free tenements in Luton and Woodcroft (Wudecroft'). London, Old Temple, February 21, 1292.

[*folio 46*]

LICENCIA CAPIENDI ASSISAM. Licence to Sir Gilbert of Thornton and Sir Peter of Wakerley (Wakerle), justices deputed to hold the assizes in the county of Rutland (Roteland'), to hold, in Lent, an assize of novel disseisin between William de Anesy, plaintiff, and Simon de Anesy, Adam of Yarmouth (Jernemuta) and Joan his wife, defendants, concerning a tenement in Elsthorpe (Alesthorp'). London, Old Temple, February 21, 1292.

LICENCIA CAPIENDI ASSISAM. Licence to Sir Peter of Leicester (Leycestria) and Gilbert de Roubir', justices, to hold an assize of novel disseisin between William Dymoke (Dymmok'), plaintiff, and Sir Hugh de Plecy and John Gepium and others, defendants, concerning a tenement in Kidlington (Cudelington'). London, Old Temple, February 21, 1292.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Philip son of William of Barnwell (Bernewell'), acolyte, to receive all holy orders. London, Old Temple, February 22, 1292.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Walter Lambert of Lathbury (Lathebir'), acolyte, to receive all holy orders. London, Old Temple, February 22, 1292.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Nicholas of Olney (Olneya), a literate person, to receive the first tonsure and other minor orders. London, Old Temple, February 22, 1292.

COMMISSIO. Commission to the Archdeacon of Bedford and to Master Thomas rector of Tyngrith (Tyngri) to discharge Baldwin vicar of Potsgrove (Potesgrave) and his fellow-executors of the will of Walter vicar of Houghton Regis (Hoeton'). London, Old Temple, February 22, 1292.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to William Newman (le Neuman) of Eaton, acolyte, to receive all holy orders from any English bishop. London, Old Temple, February 23, 1292.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Adam Cross (de Cruce) of Eaton, acolyte, to receive all holy orders from any English bishop. London, Old Temple, February 24, 1292.

LICENCIA CAPIENDI ASSISAM. Licence to Sir William of Burford (Bereford) and Sir Gilbert de Roubir', justices, to hold, in Lent, an assize of novel disseisin between William Motum, plaintiff, and Edmund (of Langley) the King's brother, defendant, concerning the common pasture in the park of Tooley (Tolawe). London, Old Temple, February 24, 1292.

LICENCIA CAPIENDI ASSISAM. Licence to Sir Roger Brabazon and Sir Gilbert de Roubir', justices, to hold, in Lent, an assize of novel disseisin between Ralph son of John de Foleville, plaintiff, and John de Foleville, defendant, concerning tenements in Shoby (Sywoldeby) and Rearsby (Reresby). London, Old Temple, February 24, 1292.

LICENCIA CAPIENDI ASSISAM. Licence to Sir Peter of Leicester (Leycestria) and Sir Robert of Graveley (Gravele), justices, to hold, in Lent, an assize of novel disseisin between John de Ho, plaintiff, and Roger de Sumery, Agnes his wife, John son of the said Roger and Christina widow of Philip de Ho and others, London, Old Temple February 26, 1292.

LICENCIA CAPIENDI INQUISITIONEM. Licence to Sir William de Turville (Turvill') and Sir Thomas of Bray, justices, to hold an inquisition into the matter of sixteen pounds demanded by the King from the prior of Newnham. London, Old Temple, February 26, 1292.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Thomas son of Isaac of Grantham, subdeacon, to receive the diaconate and priesthood. Thomas had first renounced his appeal to Rome in the presence of Master Jocelyn of Kirmington, Master John le Fleming, John de Scalleby and a notary. Wooburn, March 3, 1292.

V nonas Martii anno XII apud Wouburn' Thomas filius Isaac de Graham subdiaconus renunciavit impetrationi sue facte in forma 'Cum secundum apostolum', tradens litteras suas in manibus domini Johannis de Scalleby, presentibus magistris G. de Kirnington' archidiacono Stowe et J. le Flemeng' ac me notario. Quem quidem Thomam eodem die ibidem licenciavit episcopus recipere diaconatus et presbiteratus ordines a quocumque episcopo catholico, etc, eo non obstante, etc, dum tamen, etc.

DE RECTORE IMPOTENTE. To the official of the Archdeacon of Leicester, telling him to investigate the case of Nigel rector of Arnesby (Ernesby), who was said to have become incapable of looking after himself and his church,¹ and if the report were true to provide a suitable coadjutor for him. A report was to be sent to the bishop. Wooburn near Wycombe, March 6, 1292.

[*folio 46v*]

DE RECTORE IMPOTENTE. To Robert of Burton, sequestrator, and the dean of Wraggöe, telling them to investigate the case of Peter of Lound, rector of Stainton-by-Langworth, who was said to be mad and incurably paralysed, and if the report were true to provide a suitable coadjutor who would give him proper care. If Robert of Burton, to whom the bishop had explained the case personally, was unable to go to Stainton he was to give full information to the said dean. A report was to be made to the bishop. Wooburn, March 5, 1292.

O. permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilectis in Christo filiis Roberto de Burton' sequestratori nostro et decano de Wraghowe salutem , etc . Ad audienciam nostram nuper certa relatione pervenit quod Petrus de Lunda rector ecclesie de Staynton' morbo paralitico incurabiliter laborans , continuum mentis exilium noviter est passus et adhuc patitur in presenti ita quod ad curam dicte ecclesie peragendam immo ad sui regimen et suorum decetero prorsus insufficiens et inutilis est affectus . Nos vero statui dicti rectoris pie compatiens et indempnitati dicte ecclesie ac saluti animarum parochie ejusdem prospicere cupientes , vobis mandamus quatinus si dictum rectorem ad regendum se et sua ex causis pretactis inveneritis ut premititur impotentem , dicte ecclesie et parochie ipsiusque rectoris ut idem prout status suus requirit et ejusdem ecclesie supponunt facultates humaniter sustententur , custodiam alicui viro ydoneo de quo duxeritis confidendum , sollicitius faciendam vice et auctoritate nostra sine more dispendio donec aliter ordinaverimus in premissis committere non tardetis . Quod si tu sequestrator viva voce de predictis per nos specialiter oneratus ab initio hiis exequendis nequiveris interesse , tu decane juxta informationem college tui predicti ea nichilominus interim exequaris . Proviso quod de bonis prefati rectoris nunc extantibus sub testimonio virorum fidedignorum et illorum precipue qui ipsius patientis bonorum noverint verisimilius quantitatem , fidele inventarium fieri faciatis , et persone per vos ambos vel alterum vestrum ut supra dicitur deputande , et quotiens expedire videritis mutande , et ipsius loco alii substituende , curetis superintendere diligenter , qualiter hoc mandatum nostrum fueritis executi nobis plenius

¹ Probably because he was a very old man. There is no mention of illness or insanity.

rescribentes tempore oportuno . Datum apud Wuburn' III nonas Novembris , anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo et pontificatus nostri duodecimo.¹

CAPTIO. Request to the King for the arrest of John Osgod of Horton, who had remained obdurate for more than forty days after being excommunicated by the official of the Archdeacon of Buckingham. Wooburn near Wycombe, March 8, 1292.

PRO TESTAMENTO MAGISTRI DURANDI. To the dean of Christianity in Lincoln, ordering him to warn and if necessary excommunicate, in all the churches in the city of Lincoln, all those who had removed or hidden jewels or other things belonging to the late Master Durand of Lincoln, Archdeacon of Stow, whereby his will was prevented from being put into effect. A report was to be made to the bishop. Wooburn near Wycombe, March 6, 1292.

Oliverus , etc . decano Christianitatis Lincoln' salutem , etc . Etsi ex officii nostri debito sit precipue nobis cordi , ut deficientium voluntates ultime fraudibus et maliciis vivorum exclusis effectui debito mancipientur , ad id tamen fortius nos obligat affectio pro illis quos dum erant superstitēs habuimus cariores . Hinc est quod vobis in virtute obediencie firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus in singulis ecclesiis civitatis Lincoln' tribus diebus dominicis proxime post presentium receptionem intra missarum solemnia cum parochiani plenius fuerint plenius congregati , omnes illos qui jocalia seu res alias quondam cari nostri Durandi de Lincoln' Archidiaconi Stowe preter voluntatem et conscienciam executorum testamenti ejusdem magistri Durandi et eorum quos eisdem executoribus adjungendos , per fraudem et maliciam quicquam ammoverint,² asportaverint seu etiam occultaverint , per quorum factum dicti testamenti executio impeditur , et debitum non sortitur effectum , moneatis in genere et efficaciter inducatīs quod ea omnia sic amota² , asportata seu etiam occultata infra quindecim dies a tempore quo vestra monitio ad noticiam pervenerit eorundem , prefatis executoribus et precipue aliis per nos adjunctis eisdem , sub pena excommunicationis revelent et restituant ut tenentur . Alioquin omnes hujusmodi rerum amotores² , asportatores seu occultatores maliciosos , totidem diebus dominicis in locis et hora predictis , pulsatis campanis , candelis accensis , solempniter et publice per vos seu alios in genere excommunicetis seu excommunicatos esse publice nuncietis . Et quid super hiis feceritis , nos litteris vestris patentibus harum seriem continentibus certiores reddatis tempore oportuno . Datum apud Wuborn' juxta Wycombe II nonas Martii pontificatus nostri anno duodecimo.

¹ An unfinished commission, marked 'vacat', occurs after this entry.

² Variations of spelling *sic*.

INDULGENCIA. Grant of twenty days' indulgence to all who should contribute to the building of the chancel at Wappenham, with a ratification of all other indulgences granted or to be granted hereafter for the same purpose. Canterbury, March 17, 1292.

INDULGENCIA. Grant of forty days' indulgence to all who should pray for the soul of Lady Margery de Setwaus, whose body is buried in Chartham church. Howfield, March 17, 1292.

[*folio 47*]

CONTRA RECTOREM ECCLESIE DE BENINGTON'. To the dean of Holland, ordering him to sequester all the goods of the late William of Paris, rector of Benington, who had been executor of Sir John of Bath, Knight, and had not behaved as he should have done. London, Old Temple, March 20, 1292.

O. permissione divina Lincoln' episcopo dilecto in Christo filio¹ decano Hoyland' salutem , etc . Cum Willelmus de Parys rector ecclesie de Benington' ac testamenti quondam domini Johannis de Bathon' militis executor qui in administratione sua aliter quam debuit se gerebat , et ad quem bona ipsius defuncti omnia in nostra diocese existencia ut dicitur pervenerunt , de administratione hujusmodi ratiociniis non redditis decesserit jam in fata , volentes testamentum predictum quantum possumus effectui mancipari et ne bona ipsius dissipentur a quoquam ut timetur cautius providere , vobis mandamus quatinus omnia bona Willelmi ejusdem sequestretis et sub arto custodiatis sequestro donec per ratiocinionum redditionem nobis innotuerit qualiter idem Willelmus in bonis defuncti administraverit antedieti . Datum apud Vetus Templum London' XIII kalendas Aprilis anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Hugh son of Thomas Lambert of Washingborough (Qwassingburg') to receive the first tonsure. March 21, 1292, [place not given].

CONTRA DOMINAM EMMAM DE LANGELE. To the official of the bishop of London, telling him that Lady Emma of Langley, a married woman, who had been under sentence of excommunication for adultery for nearly two years, was thought to be living in London, and asking him to announce her excommunication in suitable London churches, and to warn her that if she did not repent and seek absolution before the following Easter the secular arm would be used against her. A report was to be made to the bishop. Wooburn near Wycombe, April 6, 1292.

Discreto viro venerabilis patris domini¹ dei gracia London' episcopi officiali , Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus

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salutem in auctore salutis . Cum domina Emma de Langele conjugata in civitate Lincoln' nuper degens de adulterio multiplici valde notata propter suam multiplicatam contumaciam ab ingressu ecclesie primo suspensa , et postmodum majoris excommunicationis sententia auctoritate nostra justicia suadente innodata extiterit et existat , in qua fere per biennium perstitit et adhuc persistit non sine clavium ecclesie contemptu animo pertinaciter indurato , discretionem vestram mutue vicissitudinis obtentu requirimus et rogamus quatinus dictam dominam Emmam nunc sub districtu vestro London' sicut dicitur commorantem in ecclesiis civitatis London' quibus expedire videritis diebus dominicis et festivis intra missarum solemnia sic auctoritate nostra suspensam et excommunicatam esse denunciari publice faciatis , eandem si inveniatur diligenter monentes seu facientes moneri , quod ad gremium ecclesie citra festum Pasche proxime futurum consultius revertatur , seque a dictis sententiis in forma juris absolvi procuret , alioquin constare faciatis eidem quod ex tunc per invocationem auxilii brachii secularis contra eam tanquam clavium ecclesie contemptricem efficaciter procedemus . Et quid super hiis duxeritis faciendum , nos litteris vestris patentibus harum seriem continentibus certiores reddatis tempore opportuno . Valete . Datum apud Wuburn' juxta Wycumb' VIII idus Aprilis anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo.¹

PRO RECTORE ECCLESIE DE QUASSINGBURG'. Note that Master John Reeve, rector of Washingborough, showed to the bishop an indulgence granted by Pope Nicholas IV to the Duke of Brittany, by which six of the duke's clerks might enjoy ecclesiastical benefices for five years without the obligation of residence. He also showed a letter of the said duke appointing him to be one of the six. The bishop had the indulgence re-copied under his own seal and confirmed Master John in his privileges. London, Old Temple, March 21, 1292.

XII kalendas Aprilis apud Vetus Templum London venit magister Johannes Prepositi rector ecclesie de Quassingburg' exhibens quamdam litteram apostolicam per quam indulgetur Duci Britannie ut sex de suis clericis suis obsequiis intendentes quos ipse vidit dignos , fructus , redditus et proventus beneficiorum suorum ecclesiasticorum etiam si personatus vel dignitates existant et curam animarum habeant cotidianis dumtaxat distributionibus exceptis integre percipere possint , ac si personaliter in hiis beneficiis residerent , et hoc usque ad quinquennium a kalendis Septembris anno pontificatus domini Nicholai pape quarto ; quodque ad faciendum interim in eisdem beneficiis residenciam minime teneantur , neque ad id a quoque valeant coarctari . Exhibuit etiam aliam litteram

¹ *Sic, recte* 'secundo'. 'Idus' may be a mistake for 'kalendas', in which case the date would be March 25, 1292.

domini ducis continentem ipsum ducem prefatum magistrum Johannem ad obtinendam dictam gratiam elegisse . Quibus inspectis , habuit litteram papalem exemplificatam sub sigillo episcopi , addito in fine episcopum velle eundem magistrum Johannem gracia memorata gaudere.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Gilbert son of John of Kelshall (Kelleshill'), acolyte, to receive all holy orders. London, Old Temple, March 20, 1292.

INDULGENCIA. Grant of ten days' indulgence, with a ratification of all other indulgences granted or to be granted for the same purpose, to all who should pray for the souls of William of Baldock (Baudak'), Maud his wife and William their son, whose bodies are buried in Baldock churchyard. London, Old Temple, March 20, 1292.

PRO THOMA DE CODICOTE SUBDIACONO , DISPENSATIO. To Thomas of Codicote, subdeacon, granting him a dispensation (at the mandate of the papal penitentiary whose letter is given in full) on account of any guilt which he might have incurred by being present and rejoicing when the murderers of his brother-in-law were put to death. Hertford, March 23, 1292.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilecto in Christo filio Thome de Codicote subdiacono salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Litteras penitenciarum sacrosancte sedis apostolice pro te nobis directas recepimus sub hac forma : — Venerabili in Christo patri¹ dei gracia episcopo Lincoln' frater Matheus miseratione divina titulo sancti Laurencii in Damaso presbiter cardinalis salutem et sinceram in domino caritatem . Exposita per nos sanctissimo patri et domino , domino Nicholao pape quarto porrecta nobis dilecti in Christo Thome de Codicote subdiaconi vestre diocesis petitio continebat quod ipse olim subdiaconus existens cum quibusdam suis sociis in quadam villa cause solacii , audito ibidem quod quidem latrones qui furtive domum Johannis quondam mariti sororis dicti subdiaconi intrantes de nocte , bona inde omnia asportaverunt , ipso Johanne tunc dormiente ibidem miserabiliter interfecto , erant tunc seu latitabant in villa predicta , hoc dixit et retulit dictis suis sociis , sicque interim mater ipsius Thome et ejus maritus venientes , et dictos latrones ut eos capi facerent insequentes , cum predictis sociis dolere commoti tractaverunt et procuraverunt cum ipsius ville ballivo ut latrones caperet memoratos . Qui postmodum cum sua familia et aliis pluribus dicto [*folio 47v*] Thoma presente non tamen dante alias operam ad ista cepit dictos latrones et etiam exigente justicia punivit sententia capitale . Et licet subdiaconus sepedictus ad predicta

¹ Blank in MS.

non dederit alias consilium , auxilium vel favorem , quia tamen de hiis utcumque gavisus propter facte justicie evidenciam , cum vellet et desideret ad superiores ordines promoveri , sedem apostolicam adiens supplicavit humiliter ad majorem sue consciencie securitatem et ne quis emulus in eum ex hiis aliquid detractionis impingat , ut benignitas apostolica salutari sibi remedio providens super istis dispensare secum misericorditer dignaretur . Nos igitur ad vos qui de hiis et eorum circumstanciis noticiam habere poteritis pleniorum subdiaconum remittentes eundem , auctoritate ipsius domini pape cujus penitenciarie curam gerimus , et de ejus speciali mandato vive vocis oraculo nobis facto , paternitati vestre committimus , quatinus si vobis constiterit ita esse , quod hiis non obstantibus possit in susceptis ordinibus ministrare , et ad superiores promoveri , dispensetis auctoritate predicta misericorditer cum eodem prout secundum deum anime ipsius saluti expedire videritis dummodo alias sibi vite merita suffragentur , aliudque canonicum non obsistat . Datum apud Urbem Veterem , kalendis Junii pontificatus domini Nicholai pape quarti anno quarto . — Nos igitur super premissis per te suggestis et eorum circumstanciis inquiri diligencius facientes , et ea per inquisitionem hujusmodi vera esse , quantum humane fragilitati scire permittatur reperientes , ac laudabile testimonium quod tibi perhibetur a pluribus attendentes , ut suggestis non obstantibus supradictis possis in susceptis ordinibus ministrare , ad superiores promoveri , dum tamen aliud canonicum non obsistat , auctoritate nobis in hac parte commissa misericorditer dispensamus . In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum . Datum apud Hertford' X kalendas Aprilis anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo.

CAPTIO. Request to the King for the arrest of Thomas Reeve (Prepositi) and John Payn of Baldon (Baldindon'), who had remained obdurate for more than forty days after being excommunicated by the Abbot of Dorchester. Wheathampstead, March 25, 1292.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation to Walter of Brackley (Brakkele), priest, for having received the first tonsure from the Bishop of Glasgow and all other minor orders from the Bishop of Worcester without letters dimissory, the subdiaconate and diaconate from the Bishop of Lincoln on a false title, and the priesthood from the same bishop on a title obtained from a religious house on condition that its use was to be purely formal. He was given a penance and suspended for five years. Wheathampstead, March 25, 1292.

INDULGENCIA. Grant of twenty days' indulgence, with ratification of all other indulgences granted or to be granted for the

same purpose, to all who should pray for the soul of Helen wife of John Durand of Dunstable (Dunestaple), whose body is buried in the parish church at Dunstable. Missenden, March 29, 1292.

LITTERA QUESTUARIA. To the dean and chapter and to all the clergy in the diocese of Lincoln, telling them to facilitate the collection of alms by the brethren of the Hospital of Santo Spirito in Saxia during the next five years, provided that the contributions to the cathedral building-fund and the crusading funds were not thereby diminished. London, March 22, 1292.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilectis in Christo filiis decano et capitulo ecclesie nostre Lincoln' ac universis archidiaconis et eorum officialibus, decanis, rectoribus, vicariis, presbiteris et ceteris ecclesiarum ministris per nostram diocesem constitutis salutem etc. Gratum et acceptum admodum altissimo impenditur obsequium dum pietatis operibus in caritatis visceribus devotius insistetur que iram redemptoris apud humanam fragilitatem mitigant et misericordiam complacendo excitant salvatoris. Cum itaque summus pontifex nobis ceterisque ecclesiarum prelati per suas litteras et mandata fratres et negotium hospitalis Sancti Spiritus in Saxia de urbe Romana persuasionibus inductivis commendet, nosque ea cupiamus pronis prosequi affectibus que negotiis subditis proficere cernimus ad salutem, universitati vestre quantum cum deo possumus injungimus et mandamus quatinus cum fratres hospitalis predicti vel eorum nuncii veri et honesti ad vos accesserint, subsidium fidelium petitori et recepturi, ipsos in proximis capitulis vestris celebrandis post inspectionem presentium, pre ceteris aliis negotiis excepto negotio fabrice ecclesie nostre cathedralis Lincoln' benigne et sine difficultate qualibet admittatis, graciosius ad petita cunctos parochianos presbiteros vobis subditos monentes et efficaciter inducentes ut negotium dicti hospitalis per tres vel quatuor dies dominicos continuos parochianis suis diligenti exhibitioni pronuncient et exponant, ac fidelium elemosinas personaliter colligant, ipsasque predictis fratribus seu eorum nunciis certis diebus et locis per vos in locorum capitulis assignandis, absque diminutione qualibet fideliter persolvant et restituant elargitas. Hoc autem mandatum nostrum taliter tam que debite compleatis, quod vestra obediencia vobis cedat ad meritum, dum apud nos se commendabiliter exhibeat in fructuoso opere, quoad piam subventionem fratrum et hospitalis superius expressorum, proviso quod iidem fratres et nuncii ab exactione et petitione eorum se omnino abstineant que in terre sancte subsidium poterunt redundare. Presentibus per quinquennium tantummodo duraturis. Datum London' die sabbati proxima ante festum Annunciationis dominice, anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo primo.

[*folio 48*]

MEMORANDUM DE LITTERIS DE CURIA ROMANA RECEPTIS. Note that Blackman (Blakeman') the servant of Master Stephen [of Tathwell] brought from Rome five pairs of letters of security (*littere cautionales*) and two bulls dealing with Oxford, all of which which were given to John de Scalleby. Fingest, April 10, 1292.

DISPENSATIO MAGISTRI STEPHANI DE TAWELL'. Dispensation (at the mandate of Pope Nicholas IV whose letter is given in full) to Master Stephen son of Walter of Tathwell, for having held the church of Westmill for more than a year without taking priest's orders, in defiance of the rule laid down by the Second Council of Lyons. Master Stephen was to make a contribution of twenty marks sterling to the church. Fingest, April 12, 1292.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilecto nobis in Christo Stephano Walteri de Tawell' rectori ecclesie de Westmelum nostre diocesis salutem in domino . Litteras sanctissimi patris domini Nicholai divina providencia pape quarti nobis ex parte vestra presentatis cum reverencia qua decuit recepimus formam que sequitur continentes . — Nicholaus episcopus servus servorum dei venerabili fratri episcopo Lincoln' salutem et apostolicam benedictionem . Petitio dilecti filii Stephani Walteri de Tawell' subdiaconi rectoris ecclesie de Westmelum tue diocesis nobis exhibita continebat quod cum ipse olim ecclesiam ipsam curam animarum habentem post novissimum generale concilium Lugdun' extitit canonice assecutus , et se non fecit infra annum juxta tenorem constitutionis in eodem consilio edite in presbiteratum promoveri , et nichilominus ecclesiam hucusque detinens fructus percepit etiam ex eadem . Quare idem rector nobis humiliter supplicavit , ut tam circa retentionem predictae ecclesie et receptionem fructuum eorundem , quam circa statum suum et quamlibet maculam sive notam quam provide sibi posset impingi , apostolice provisionis dignaremur beneficium adhibere . Cum igitur eidem rectori sic dicantur probitatis merita suffragari , ut sit dignum quod ipsum prosequamur benevolencia graciosam , nos de tua circumspectione plenam in domino fiduciam obtinentes , fraternitati tue per apostolica scripta mandamus , quatinus si est ita , et aliquod canonicum non obsistat , et expedire videris , super quibus tuam intendimus conscienciam onerare , cum eodem S. ut predictam ecclesiam necnon fructus taliter perceptos ex ea constitutione predicta et qualibet alia super hoc edita nequaquam obstante , possit licite retinere auctoritate nostra dispenses dummodo congruam partem ipsorum in utilitatem dicte ecclesie juxta tuum arbitrium convertere non postponat , et ut ipsius fama in aliquo non ledatur , nec aliqua possit super hoc labe notari , omnem notam sive maculam propter premissa vel aliquod premissorum ab eo contractam nichilominus

abolendo . Datum Rome apud Sanctam Mariam Majorem octavo kalendas Januarii , pontificatus nostri anno quarto . — Nos autem ipsius domini pape mandatum volentes reverenter exequi ut tenemur , vestre probitatis meritis ponderatis que nobis incognita non existunt , ac de premissis omnibus in predictis litteris contentis nobis legitima facta fide , vos dignum hujusmodi gracia reputamus , vobiscumque quod predictam ecclesiam et fructus taliter perceptos ex ea constitutione predicta et qualibet alia super hoc edita non obstante licite retinere valeatis , auctoritate predicti domini pape tenore presentium dispensamus , omnem notam sive maculam propter premissa vel aliquod premissorum a vobis contractam penitus abolentes , Ita quod propter hoc fama vestra in aliquo non ledatur nec aliqua possitis labe notari . Volumus etiam quod pro predictis fructibus a vobis perceptis viginti marcas sterlingorum in utilitatem ecclesie convertere teneamini antedictæ . In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum . Datum apud Tyngehurst II idus Aprilis anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo secundo.

PRO FRATRE WALTERO DE LANGELE DE ORDINE MINORUM. To all the parish clergy of the archdeaconries of Oxford and Buckingham, telling them to give all possible help and support to Brother Walter of Langley, a Franciscan who had been commissioned by his order to preach the crusade in the said archdeaconries. Fingest, April 11, 1292.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilectis in Christo filiis universis ecclesiarum rectoribus , vicariis et capellanis parochialibus per archidiaconatus Oxon' et Buck' constitutis salutem , grariam et benedictionem . Cum ministro provinciali fratrum ordinis minorum in provincia Anglie ac triginta quinque fratribus ejusdem ordinis quos idem minister duxerit eligendos predicandi crucem in eadem provincia una cum potestate conveniendi populum ad loca ydonea pro verbo crucis humiliter audiendo , ministerium a sede apostolica commissum , ac idem minister dilectum nobis fratrem Waltherum de Langele ejusdem ordinis ad predicationem hujusmodi in predictis archidiaconatibus exercendum specialiter duxerit eligendum , vobis in virtute obediencie firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus eidem fratri Waltero cum per vos transitum fecerit in tam pio nostri redemptoris obsequio assistatis , sibi in hoc et maxime in populi convocatione opem et operam efficaciter impendentes . Valet . Datum apud Tyngehurst III idus Aprilis anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo secundo.

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to John Palmer (Paumer) of Lindley (Linleye), acolyte, to receive all holy orders. Fingest, April 11, 1292.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation to Thomas of Evington (Evinton'), priest, for being ordained by the Bishop of Waterford without letters dimissory. Thomas was given a penance and a period of suspension. London, Old Temple, April 15, 1292.

[*folio 48v*]

DIMISSORIE. Letters dimissory to Robert of Arnesby (Ernesby) and John Bars of ? Codford (Codeford'), acolytes, to receive all holy orders. London, Old Temple, April 18, 1292.

CAPTIO. Request to the King for the arrest of Gilbert son of Gilbert of Pinchbeck (Pyncebek') who had remained obdurate for more than forty days after being excommunicated by the bishop, the official of Canterbury and the dean of Holland. London, Old Temple, April 19, 1292.

CONVOCATIO CANONICORUM LINCOLN'. To the dean and chapter of Lincoln, telling them to assemble in the chapter-house on May 28, when the bishop proposed to meet them in order to discuss certain business touching the affairs of the church of Lincoln in the papal curia, which business had been reported to him by Master Stephen of Tathwell the cathedral proctor in the curia. A report was to be made to the bishop. London, Old Temple, April 16, 1292.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln episcopus dilectis in Christo filiis¹ decano et capitulo Lincoln' ecclesie salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Habito tractatu cum fratribus et concanonicis vestris qui London' poterant inveniri , una cum illis qui nobis de familia continue assistunt , videbatur nobis fratrurn convocatio necessario facienda , ut super negotio arduissimo nostram ecclesiam contingente de quo scripsit nobis magister S. de Tawell' canonicus Lincoln' noster in curia procurator uberius deliberetur , quid de eodem finaliter sit agendum . Vobis igitur in virtute obediencie firmiter injungendo mandamus quatinus omnes et singulos canonicos ecclesie nostre prefate citare peremptorie non tardetis , quod in virtute obediencie et sub debito juramenti quo tenentur ecclesie Lincoln' , die Mercurii in ebdomeda Pentecostis proxime futura personaliter propter negotii arduitate comparare in ejusdem ecclesie capitulo non omittant , super pretacto negotio et aliis ipsorum presenciam requiruntibus efficaciter tractaturi et facturi quod pro utilitate ipsius ecclesie negotiorum qualitas postulabit , continuatione dierum si necesse fuerit non omissa . Proponimus siquidem eidem tractatu personaliter interesse , domino concedente . Quid igitur super hoc citatione duxeritis faciendum nos per litteras vestras patentes harum seriem continentes dictis die et loco certiores reddere nullatenus omittatis . Valete . Datum apud Vetus Templum

¹ Blank in MS.

London' XVI kalendas Maii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo secundo et pontificatus nostri duodecimo.

COMMISSIO. Commission to Master William of Langworth (Langewath'), canon of Lincoln, and to Robert of Burton, sequestrator, to discharge the executors of Guy Gubaud. Edlington, April 21, 1292.

RELAXATIO SEQUESTRI. Relaxation of the order to sequesterate the goods of the late William of Paris (Parys) rector of Benington (Benington') and executor of the will of Sir John of Bath (Bathon'), because the other executors had testified to Master William¹ of Wootton (Wutton') that they had made an agreement which would obviate the necessity for such a sequestration. Buckden, April 26, 1292.

DISPENSATIO. Dispensation for bastardy to Thomas of Cranoe (Crawenho), acolyte, son of a deacon and an unmarried woman. Edlesborough, May 1, 1292.

DISPENSATIO MAGISTRI THOME DE SUTTON'. Dispensation to Master Thomas of Sutton, Archdeacon of Northampton, in virtue of a mandate of Pope Nicholas IV (given in full) to hold one other benefice in plurality, provided that due provision were made for the cure of souls. Edlesborough, April 30, 1292.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilecto in Christo filio Magistro Thome de Sutton' archidiacono Norhamt' salutem , graciam et benedictionem . Litteras sanctissimi patris domini Nicholai pape quarti non rasas nec vitiatas , nec in aliqua sui parte suspectas vera bulla plumbea et filo canapis integro more curie Romane bullatas XVIII kalendas Maii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo secundo ex parte tua exhibitas recepimus sub hac forma : — Nicholaus episcopus servus servorum dei , venerabili fratri episcopo Lincoln' salutem et apostolicam benedictionem . Virtutum merita quibus dilectus filius magister Thomas de Sutton' Archidiaconus de Norhamt' in ecclesia Lincoln' noscitur insignitus benigna consideratione pensantes , libenter sibi apostolici favoris impartimur auxilium et eum condigna gracia honoramus , per quod sibi honoris et fame perveniat incrementum . Sane idem magister Thomas nobis humiliter supplicavit ut secum preter archidiaconatum curam animarum habentem et prebendam quos in dicta ecclesia obtinet , unicum aliud beneficium ecclesiasticum etiam si similem curam habeat si sibi canonice offeratur , libere recipere valeat et una cum dicto archidiaconatu licite retinere dispensare misericorditer dignaremur . Nos itaque attendentes laudabile testimonium quod eidem magistro de multe probitatis meritis perhibetur , et volentes

¹ *sic, recte* Walter.

personam suam propterea prosequi graciose , ipsius supplicationibus inclinati , gerentes quoque de circumspectione tua fiduciam in domino pleniorē , fraternitati tue per apostolica scripta mandamus quatinus cum eodem magistro Thoma si¹ ejus ad hoc videris merita suffragari , quod preter archidiaconatum predictum unicum aliud beneficium ecclesiasticum etiam si similis cura illi imineat et si canonice offeratur , libere recipere valeat , et cum prefato archidiaconatu libere retinere auctoritate nostra dispenses prout secundum deum videris expedire , constitutione generalis concilii super hoc edita et qualibet alia contraria non obstante . Proviso quod predictus archidiaconatus et hujusmodi beneficium debitis obsequiis non fraudentur et animarum cura in² [*folio 49*] eis nullatenus negligatur . Datum Rome apud Sanctam Mariam Majorem nonis Januarii pontificatus nostri anno quarto . — Mandatum igitur apostolicum suprascriptum volentes exequi prout decet , teque ad preactam gratiam obtinendam bene meritum reputantes ut preter archidiaconatum predictum unicum aliud beneficium ecclesiasticum etiam si similis illi cura imineat et tibi canonice offeratur , libere recipere valeas et cum prefato archidiaconatu licite retinere , constitutione generalis concilii super hoc edita et qualibet alia contraria non obstante , tecum commissa nobis in hac parte auctoritate apostolica dispensamus , proviso quod dictus archidiaconatus et hujusmodi beneficium debitis obsequiis non fraudentur , et animarum cura in eis nullatenus negligatur . In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum . Datum apud Edelesberg' II kalendas Maii anno domini supradicto et pontificatus nostri duodecimo.

INDULGENCIA. Grant of twenty days' indulgence, with a ratification of all other indulgences granted or to be granted for the same purpose, to all those who would contribute to the repair of the public highway called Walton Street (Waltonstret') in Aylesbury (Aylesbir'), and the neighbouring roads, where the mud was so deep as to prevent travellers from passing along, especially in winter. The indulgence was to be valid for five years. Aylesbury, May 3, 1292.

DISPENSATIO ROBERTI DE SANCTO ALBANO. Dispensation (at the mandate of Pope Nicholas IV whose letter is given in full) to Robert of S. Alban's, rector of Great Bowden and clerk of the King, who had recently taken the cross. Robert had held the church of Essendine for several years without being ordained priest, and had then obtained the living of Great Bowden which he held in plurality without a dispensation, but in full orders. He was told to pay twenty marks for the use of the church of Great Bowden and ten marks for the use of the church of Essendine, and to make

¹ The MS. is blotted at this point.

² *Bis*.

provision for the cure of souls in both churches. Edlesborough, May 1, 1292.

Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus dilecto in Christo filio domino Roberto de Sancto Albano rectori ecclesie de Magna Budon' nostre diocesis presbitero salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Litteras sanctissimi patris domini Nicholai pape quarti non raras , non vitiatas nec in aliqua sui parte suspectas , vera bulla plumbea et filo canapis more curie Romane bullatas , pro te nuper recepinus in hec verba : — Nicholaus episcopus servus servorum dei venerabili fratri episcopo Lincoln' salutem et apostolicam benedictionem . Meritis dilecti filii Roberti de Sancto Albano rectoris ecclesie de Magna Budon' Lincoln' diocesis , clerici carissimi in Christo filii nostri Regis Anglie illustris inducimur ut eum speciali gracia prosequimur . Sane ipsius R. petitio nobis exhibita continebat quod primo ipse ecclesiam de Essenden' curam animarum habentem predictae diocesis ad ipsius Regis presentationem post generalem concilium Lugdun' fuit canonice assecutus , ipsamque pluribus annis detinens , se non fecit juxta tenorem ipsius concilii in presbiteratum ordinari . Postmodum vero prefatus Robertus nominatam ecclesiam de Magna Budon' ad ejusdem Regis presentationem de novo legitime est adeptus , seque fecit statutis temporibus in presbiteratum promoveri , dictasque ecclesias insimul aliquamdiu tenuit et fructus percepit etiam ex eisdem super hoc dispensatione a sede apostolica non obtenta . Cum autem idem Robertus qui zelo fidei et devotionis accensus signum vivifice crucis assumpsit , intendat cum eodem Rege suis propriis sumptibus et expensis in terre sancte subsidium proficisci , nobis humiliter supplicavit ut providere sibi tam circa detentionem dictarum ecclesiarum et perceptionem fructuum earundem , quam circa statum suum et quamlibet maculam sive notam que provide sibi posset impingi per apostolice provisionis remedium misericorditer dignaremur . Nos itaque ipsius Roberti supplicationibus inclinati , et volentes sibi ob suorum exigenciam meritorum et considerationem predicti Regis cujus idem Robertus clericus existit gratiam facere specialem , de circumspectione tua plenam in domino fiduciam obtinentes , fraternitati tue per apostolica scripta mandamus , quatinus si est ita , cum eodem Roberto ut prefatas ecclesias et fructus ex eis perceptos possit licite retinere , constitutionis generali concilii aut qualibet alia super hoc in contrarium edita non obstante dispenses , nichilominus omnem maculam sive infamiam et quamlibet aliam inhabilitatis notam , si quam ex retentione predictarum ecclesiarum et perceptione dictorum fructuum contraxit , totaliter abolendo . Volumus tamen quod de fructibus prelibatis portionem congruam in evidentem utilitatem ecclesiarum ipsarum juxta tuum arbitrium idem Robertus convertere teneatur , reliquos sibi de speciali gracia remittendo , proviso quod predictae ecclesie debitis obsequiis non

fraudentur , et animarum cura in eis nullatenus negligatur . Datum Rome apud Sanctam Mariam Majorem X kalendas Martii pontificatus nostri anno quarto . — Constante igitur et cognito prout res exigit de premissis , ut de Boudon' et de Essendon' ecclesias antedictas et fructus ex eis perceptos licite valeas retinere , constitutione generalis concilii super hoc edita aut qualibet alia contraria non obstante , tecum auctoritate nobis in hac parte commissa tenore presentium dispensamus , omnem maculam sive infamiam aut quamlibet aliam inhabilitatis notam , si quam ex retentione predictarum ecclesiarum ex perceptione dictorum fructuum contraxisti totaliter [*folio 49v*] nichilominus abolentes . Ita tamen quod de fructibus memoratis viginti marcas in ecclesie de Budon' et decem marcas in ecclesie de Esenden' evidentem utilitatem convertas , reliquis tibi de gracia speciali remissis , proviso quod dicte ecclesie debitis non fraudentur obsequiis et animarum cura in eis nullatenus negligatur . In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus est appensum . Datum apud Edelesberg' kalendis Maii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo secundo et pontificatus nostri duodecimo.

DATIO CURATORIS VICARIO IMPOTENTI. To Robert of Fakenham, chaplain, appointing him as coadjutor to Geoffrey of ? Harrington (Haveringdun') vicar of Beaconsfield, who was paralysed. Geoffrey had himself nominated Robert for the office. Fingest, May 6, 1292.

SENTENCIA GENERALIS. To the dean of S. Neot's, ordering him to warn and if necessary excommunicate all those who had stolen a book from Master John of Dersingham, or who had borrowed it and failed to return it. A report was to be made to the bishop. Fingest, May 8, 1292.

O. etc . decano de Sancto Neoto , etc . Cum inter illicitam detentionem rei aliene et ipsius temeram invasionem , que sine peccato et periculo anime invadentis fieri nequit , non differat apud deum , ac magister Johannes de Dersingham a possessione cujusdam Infortiati¹ in quo studendo multum laborasse proponitur , sine culpa sua jampridem sit destitutus , qui quidem liber a quibuscumque subditis nostris injuste occupatus , detentus , seu per ipsos a vero domino dicitur temere amotus , in animarum suarum grande periculum et dicti magistri Johannis detrimentum non modicum et jacturam , nos pro salute transgressorum si forte penitere velint ut a culpa refugant , et subventionem eorum qui dampnum sentiunt , excessus hujusmodi quatenus cedunt ad interitum animarum pium esse perfecto odio prosequi arbitantes , vobis mandamus firmiter injungendo quatinus omnes occupatores , detentores et amotores predictos ac hujusmodi facti qualitercumque conscios , secrete confessionis articulo dumtaxat excepto , in

¹ A law-book, part of the Digest.

ecclesiis de Offord' et aliis de quibus per prefatum magistrum Johannem fueritis requisiti , tribus diebus dominicis seu festivis intra missarum solempnia publice in genere moneatis seu monere faciatis , quod eidem magistro Johanni dictum Infortiatum per ipsos taliter occupatum , detentum seu amotum , infra octo dies a tempore monitionis hujusmodi quatenus eis est possibile restituant , seu id quod inde noverunt per se vel per alios studeant fideliter revelare , alioquin omnes transgressores predictos aliis tribus diebus dominicis in ecclesiis pretactis intra missarum solempnia , pulsatis campanis , candelis accensis , solempniter in genere excommunicetis seu excommunicari publice faciatis quousque de presumptis digne penituerint et absolvi meruerint in hoc casu . Vos autem qualiter hoc mandatum nostrum fueritis executi , quantumque per hujusmodi monitiones factas de dicto libro audieritis in premissis , nos litteris vestris patentibus harum seriem continentibus certificetis tempore opportuno . Datum apud Tyngehurst VIII idus Maii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo secundo.

CANTARIA DE STAKETHIRN'. Inspeximus, by the bishop, of a charter (given in full) by which Richard de Bois Roard founded a perpetual chantry in Stathern in honour of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin and for the souls of Simon de Bois Roard, Margery his wife, Simon their son, the souls of all the faithful departed and of himself. The charter was witnessed by Sir William de Ros and Sir John Lovel, knights, Masters Peter de Ros, Nicholas his brother, John de Ros and others, and was in cyrograph. The bishop also inspected the licence from the King to alienate in mortmain and the licence from Lady Isabel de Ros to alienate land which was held in fee from her. The official of the Archdeacon of Leicester reported in a letter (given in full) that he had inquired into all the circumstances concerning the chantry and had arranged for the revenues of the chaplain to be increased. (A copy of the findings of an inquiry held by the dean of Framland into these revenues is given in full.) The bishop finally gave his approval to the foundation of the chantry. London, Old Temple, April 17, 1292.

Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis ad quos presentes littere pervenerint , Oliverus permissione divina Lincoln' episcopus salutem in omnium salvatore . Cartam seu litteram domini Ricardi de Bosco Rowardi recepinus et inspeximus , tenorem qui sequitur continentem : — Notum sit omnibus sancte matris ecclesie filiis quod ego Ricardus de Bosco Roardi dedi , concessi , et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi deo et Beate Marie et omnibus sanctis ad sustentationem cujusdam capellani divina perpetue celebraturi in ecclesia de Stakethirn' in honore Assumptionis Beate Marie virginis et pro animabus Simonis de Bosco Roardi et Margerie uxoris ejus et Simonis filii eorundem et pro animabus omnium

fidelium defunctorum unum mesuagium et unam virgatam terre arabilis quam Johannes filius Hugonis de dominico tenuerat , et sex acras et tresdecim seliones terre arabilis quarum quatuor seliones jacent in campo boreali , videlicet duo seliones insimul jacent et tendunt in Wetilgate inter terram Hugonis Caynem ex una parte et terram quam Radulphus le Cu tenuit ex altera , et unus selio ad orientale capud¹ de Wetenhusty que vocatur Bebing' inter terram Ivette de Hoyland' ex una parte et terram quam Radulphus le Ceu¹ tenuit ex altera . Et unus selio subter Redelandsik' inter terram quam Hugo filius Nigelli tenuit . Et in campo australi quatuor seliones quorum unus selio jacet inter Castelgate et viam que ducit apud Graham juxta culturam quondam Roberti Maynard' . Et duo seliones simul jacent subter Cliffordlong' juxta terram ecclesie . Et unus selio en le hay¹ juxta terram Johannis le Rus . Et duo seliones jacent inter terram Beatricis quondam de Braunston' et warannam.² Et tres seliones abuttant super divisam de Plungar juxta culturam domini³ prioris de Haverholm' . Et in campo occidentali duo seliones jacent super Stokfurlong' juxta terram Seroud' . Et unus selio super Flaxhulgovil juxta terram Johannis de Aubeney . Et unus selio in Flaxhul juxta terram Johannis Borard . Et unus selio super Stanewelsty juxta terram dicti Johannis Bo[folio 50]-rard . Et septem seliones jacent insimul inter tofta le Ward et tendunt se super Cliffordlong . Et duo seliones in Hopsik' in campo boreali.¹ Et unus selio jacet ad le Wedinlandsik' noyerend'¹ juxta terram Hugonis filii Simonis . Et unus selio jacet super Timberhul' juxta culturam domini prioris de Haverholm' . Et duo seliones jacent super Crekland' juxta terram Radulphi le Carpenter . Et unus selio jacet en la more¹ juxta culturam dicti prioris quem Gonara tenuit . Et duo seliones jacent super Wethul' juxta divisam dicti domini prioris . Et unus selio jacet super Timberhulslad' inter culturam fratrum de Haverholm' ex una parte et Walterum¹ de Aubeney ex altera parte . Et unus selio sub domo Walteri Cok buttantem¹ in Littelbeksik' inter terram quam Robertus de Lindeseye tenuit et terram quam Laurencius tenuit . Et quadraginta solidatas annui redditus , videlicet de Willelmo le Ward' filio Nicholai le Blund' et Cecilie uxoris ejus pro duabus virgatas terre viginti solidos ad quatuor anni terminos , videlicet ad festum Sancti Michaelis quinque solidos , in festo Nativitatis quinque solidos , in festo Annunciationis beate virginis quinque solidos et in festo Nativitatis Sancti Johannis Baptiste quinque solidos , et de Johanne Fabro decem solidos pro una virgata terre , et de Radulpho de Thornlouton' decem solidos pro una virgata terre . Quare volo et concedo pro me et heredibus meis quod omnes terre et tenementa , prata et redditus supradicta in perpetuum remaneant deo et Beate Marie et omnibus sanctis et capellanis predictam cantariam facientibus perpetuis temporibus in futurum in

¹ Sic.² Sic. For 'warennam', the rabbit-warren.³ Blank in MS.

capella predicta , per me et heredes meos presentandis episcopo Lincoln' qui pro tempore fuerit vel vices ejus gerenti , et ab eodem admittendis ad dictam cantariam fideliter perficiendum , in liberam , puram et perpetuam elemosynam adeo libere et pure sicut aliqua terra , aliquod tenementum , aliquod pratum aut aliquis redditus liberius et purius concedi potest vel teneri , cum omnibus suis pertinentibus , aysiamentis et aliis libertatibus quibuscumque . Ita scilicet quod ego , heredes mei vel successores mei qualescum que nichil juris vel emolumenti in dominico seu in servicio de predictis terris et tenementis , pratis , redditibus vel aliquibus pertinenciis suis clamare poterimus vel quomodalibet vindicare , jure presentandi capellanum ydoneum cum dictum beneficium vacare contingerit in heredibus et successoribus meis semper salvo . Dictus autem capellanus per me vel heredes meos ad dictam cantariam presentandus , coram loci diocesano cui presentabitur , et coram domino presentante qui pro tempore fuerit vel ejus attornato , fidelitatis prestabit sacramentum , quod de hiis que ad dictam cantariam pertinent in fraudem ejusdem cantarie nichil penitus alienabit , nec in prejudicium ecclesie de Stakethirn' predictae quicquam attemptabit clam vel palam seu attemptari aut fieri procurabit , et quod singulis diebus in ebdomeda obsequium defunctorum , scilicet ' Placebo ' ' Dirige ' et Commendationem plenius adimplet , et missarum solempnia suo perpetuo fideliter celebrabit in dicta capella , nisi per infirmitatem vel aliam causam rationabilem , urgentem , veram et non fictam fuerit impeditus , et tunc per alium sacerdotem quod per se non poterit faciet adimpleri . Capellanus siquidem prenotatus statim a tempore admissionis sue continuam apud Stakethirn' personalem faciet residenciam divina ut supradictum est celebrando . Idem etiam singulis diebus in ebdomada in dicta ecclesia matutinas et omnes horas de die justo impedimento cessante dicere teneatur . Cum autem capellanus ad dictam cantariam per me , heredes seu quoscumque alios successores episcopo Lincoln' pro tempore existenti vel vices ejus gerenti presentatus fuerit et admissus ab eodem , si a celebratione divinorum in loco prefato per mensem cessaverit , et hoc per negligenciam seu impotenciam seu culpam ejus steterit , ac ministerium dicte cantarie per alium capellanum ydoneum eo tempore suis sumptibus non fecerit adimpleri , idem capellanus ad denunciationem meam , heredum seu successorum meorum per dominum episcopum vel vices ejus gerentem cognita veritate de plano amoveatur , et alius de novo ad dictum beneficium ut scriptum est presentatur . Et si capellanus ibidem institutus cesserit vel decesserit aut per episcopum loci vel vices ejus gerentem fuerit amotus , et ego vel successor meus alium presbiterum ydoneum infra tempus statutum in concilio diocesano vel vices ejus gerenti distulerimus presentare , postestate presentandi ipso facto privati simus ea vice , ac providendi ad tunc de capellano ydoneo qui predictam cantariam fideliter faciat sub

debito juramenti ad hoc in forma pretacta prestandi ad episcopum Lincoln seu vices ejus gerentem facultas libere devolvatur , salvo milii et heredibus meis jura presentandi ad supradictum beneficium quotiens illud postmodum contigerit fore vacans . Ego autem et heredes mei calicem , libros et vestimenta et alia ornamenta omnia ad dictam cantariam pertinencia invenimus , ad quod per loci archidiaconum volo et concedo quotiens opus fuerit [*folio 50^v*] nos quacumque censura ecclesiastica posse compelli . Idem tamen capellanus vinum , oblatas, luminare et clericum qui sibi ad officium dicte cantarie ministrabit . Si autem per negligenciam seu per incuriam capellani calix , libri , vestimenta et alia ornamenta per me et heredes meos inventa , seu per quoscumque alios dicte cantarie collata perierint vel perdita fuerint , idem capellanus omnia sic omissa¹ suis sumptibus restaurabit . Et ut ea que de calice , libris , vestamentis , ornamentis ex parte mea heredum et successorum meorum inveniendis , et circa custodiam premissorum per dictum capellanum adhibendam , et alia per eundem exhibenda ex parte alia prout superius exprimitur rite procedant et fiant , loci archidiaconus in singulis visitationibus parochialis ecclesie de Stakethirn' predictae de hiis omnibus sollicitudinem geret intuitu caritatis , et illos quos uno modo vel alio culpabiles invenerit in premissis debita animadversione compescet . Sciendum est etiam quod predictus capellanus per dominum episcopum sic admissus predictas terras , testamenta , prata et redditus aut aliquam partem eorundem cuicunque dare , vendere , assignare vel legare vel alio modo alienare vel ad firmam sive ad terminum dimittere aut de sepibus vastum vel exilium aut destructionem facere per se vel per alium ullo modo facultatem habebit sed ea omnia integre cum suis pertinentiis habeat in manu sua et teneat omnibus temporibus suis et sustineat domos in manso sitas et edificia sufficienter secundum quod status eorum exposcit . Et si , quod absit , de predictis sepibus faciat vastum aut destructionem et domos vel edificia ruere permittat , et in dicta cantaria facienda male se gerat , et de hoc coram episcopo vel loci archidiacono ad denunciationem meam heredum vel successorum meorum commineatur de plano , ab hujusmodi cantaria protinus amoveatur et alius loco ipsius subrogetur per presentationem faciendam in forma prenotata . Premissis insuper specialiter adicio et injungo jus presentandi infra tempus pretactum post decessum meum ad dictum beneficium cum vacaverit ad heredes meos pertinere debere . Preterea ut occasione discordie pro tempore futuro vitande cautius prospiciatur , volo et ordino quod capellanus dicte cantarie de proventibus spectantibus ad ipsam nichil omnino percipiat post mortem suam² , sumptibus circa

¹ These two words interlined.

² This statement seems odd as it stands. 'Mortem' may be a mistake for 'cessionem' , or it may mean that the chaplain's executors were to have no claim on the revenues except in respect of land which had already been sown.

agriculturam terre seminate per ipsum si qui fuerint facti dumtaxat exceptis . De quibus rationabiliter et fideliter per successorem suum sine difficultatem respondeatur ad plenum . Et ut hec mea donatio , concessio et carte confirmatio in forma suprascripta perpetuam obtineant roboris firmitatem , presenti scripture ad majorem presentis rei memoriam in plures partes divise sigillum meum duxi apponendum . Hiis testibus , dominis Willelmo de Ros , Johanne Luvel , militibus , magistris Petro de Ros , clerico , Nicholao fratre ejus , Johanne de Ros et multis aliis . — Verum cum dominus noster dominus Edwardus dei gracia illustris Rex Anglie et domina Isabella de Ros domina feodi in predicta carta contenti per suas litteras patentes quas inspeximus prefate donationi et assignationi quantum ad ipsos pertinet duxerint annuendum , justum est ut nos qui plus ipsis laicis pro augmentatione cultus divini zelare debemus , nostrum in premissis impartiamur assensum , maxime ex quo per inquisitiones archidiaconi Leycestr' super certis articulis statui predictae cantarie congruentibus ad mandatum nostrum factas , evidenter apparet nichil de canonicis obviare institutis quominus ipsius cantarie ordinatio secundum propositum ordinantis debeat sortiri effectum , cujus mandati nostri certificatorium ad evidenciam majorem de verbo ad verbum presentibus duximus inserendum sub infrascripto tenore : — Venerabili patri in Christo ac domino reverendo domino O. dei gracia Lincoln' episcopo , devotus filius suus officialis Leycestr' salutem cum debitis tanti patri obediencia , reverencia et honore . Mandatum vestrum in hec verba recepi : — O permissione divina dilecto in Christo filio¹ archidiacono Leycestr' vel ejus officiali salutem , gratiam et benedictionem . Exposuit nobis dilectus in Christo filius Ricardus de Boysroard'² quod in ecclesia de Stakethirn' perpetuam proponit constituere cantariam ad sustentationem capellani officium hujusmodi peracturi unum mesuagium , unam virgatam , sex acras et tresdecim seliones , ac viginti solidatas redditus cum pertinenciis in Stakethirn' assignando , petens humiliter ut ipsius tam pio proposito auctoritatem nostram impendere curaremus , maxime cum domini Regis licenciam quantum ad mesuagii terre et redditus assignationem quam nobis ostendit optineat specialem . Quocirca vobis mandamus quatinus de assignatione predicta , rerum assignatarum valore et pertinenciis eorundem et utrum conditionibus patrie ponderatis ad sustentationem congruam dicti sufficiant capellani , dictusque Ricardus de mesuagio , terra et redditu jus habeat disponendi , necnon de consensu rectoris dicte ecclesie et patroni , vocatis vocandis , tam fideliter quam diligenter inquirentes , que inveneritis in hac parte , et utrum consideratis considerandis ea que petuntur vestro judicio concedere deceat vel negare , nobis litteris vestris patentibus harum seriem continentibus intimetis . Datum apud Caldewell' XI kalendas Decembris pontificatus nostri anno undecimo . — Hujus vestri

¹ Blank in MS.² Sic.

mandati auctoritate super premissis in forma demandata diligenter fieri feci inquisitionem , quam paternitati vestre reverende presentibus inclusam transmittito . Et quia portiones predictae ad sustentationem capellani videbantur insufficientes , addidit portionibus predictis viginti solidos annui redditus in villa de Stakethirn' annuatim percipiendos , videlicet [*folio 51*] de una virgata terre quam Johannes Faber tenet decem solidos , et de una virgata terre quam Radulphus de Thurlaston' tenet decem solidos . Et si additio istorum viginti solidos annui redditus per dominum Regem fuerit confirmata , iudicio meo sufficiens erit portio et petita sunt concedenda . Valeat paternitas vestra in domino per tempora longa . Datum apud Stapelford' die Sancti Mathei apostoli , anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo . — Inquisitio facta in ecclesia de Estwell' coram decano de Framelund' in congregatione coram ipso facta super valore unius virgate terre in Stakethirn' , unius mesuagii , sex acrarum et tresdecim selionum terre , dicit quod dicta virgata terre cum tofto eidem pertinente valet singulis annis sexdecim solidos . Dicit etiam quod toftum quod Willelmus capellanus modo inhabitat valet quinque solidos per annum . Dicit etiam quod sex acre et tresdecim seliones faciunt duodecim acras terre et valent per annum sex solidos . Dicit etiam quod Willelmus le Wyte reddit viginti solidos per annum de quibus sit mentio in carta domini Regis . Dicit etiam inquisitio quod ista non sufficiunt ad congruam sustentationem cuiusdam capellani sine incremento . Dicit etiam quod dictus Ricardus de Boysroard' est verus patronus ecclesie de Stakethirn' et etiam rector , et habet jus disponendi de antedictis terra , redditu et mesuagiis pro sue voluntatis arbitrio . — Nos igitur ponderatis omnibus in hac parte ponderandis predictae cantarie ordinationem in omnibus et per omnia sicut in prefati domini Ricardi littera continetur , necnon et ipsam cantariam sine prejudicio matricis ecclesie approbamus , ratificamus et auctoritate pontificali confirmamus . Salvis in omnibus episcopalibus consuetudinibus et Lincoln' ecclesie dignitate . In cuius rei testimonium , sigillum nostrum presentibus litteris duximus apponendum . Actum et datum apud Vetus Templum London' XV kalendas Maii anno domini M. CC. nonagesimo secundo et pontificatus nostri duodecimo.

INDULGENCIA. Grant of an indulgence¹ to all those who should visit Dorchester Abbey, where the bishop had recently consecrated the high altar,² on the morrow of Ascension Day. Dorchester, May 16, 1292.

¹ The number of days is not specified.

² The name of the saint in whose honour the altar was dedicated is left blank.

ITINERARY

1280

May 23. Stepney.
 June 3, 10. Buckden.
 " 13. Thornhaugh.
 " 16. Newstead-by-Stamford.
 " 29. Stow Park.
 July 6. Laughton near Gainsborough
 " 12. Grimsby.
 " 14. Louth.
 " 20. Nettleham.
 " 23, 24, 26. Stow Park, with a visit
 to Launde Priory.
 " 31. Stow Park.
 August 1, 2. Binnington.
 " 12. Stretton upon Dunnesmor'.
 " 20. Osney.
 September 10, 12. Nettleham.
 " 22. Belton.
 " 27, 28. Stow Park.
 October 2. Nettleham.
 " 7, 8. Lincoln.
 " 9, 10. Nettleham.
 " 12. Mere-on-the-Heath.
 " 13. Sleaford
 " 16. Spaldwick.
 " 27. London, Old Temple.
 November 1, 6. London, Old Temple.
 " 10, 12. Theydon Mount.
 " 18. Baldock.
 " 20. Langenhoe.
 " 26. Dunstable.
 " 30. Ivinghoe.
 December 11, 13. Farnham.
 " 16. Upton.
 " 21. Wycombe.

1281

January 9. Fingest.
 " 12. Rotherfield.
 " 13. Goring.
 " 22, 23, 25. Milton.
 " 27. Oxford, S. Frideswide's.
 February 2, 8. Eynsham.
 March 2. Notley.
 " 8. Missenden.
 " 15, 19. Lathbury.
 " 20. Woburn Abbey.
 " 26, 27. Dunstable.
 " 28, 29. Shillington.
 April 14, 16, 20, 28, 30. Buckden.
 May 3. Biggleswade.
 " 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20. London,
 Old Temple.
 " 23. Elstow.
 " 30. S. Neot's.
 June 1. Buckden.
 " 7. Huntingdon.
 " 8. Buckden.

June 9, 11. Huntingdon.
 " 13, 14. S. Ives.
 " 19. Ramsey.
 " 20. Glatton.
 " 30, July 1, 2. Lincoln.
 July 10. Stow Park.
 " 23, 29, 30, August 1. Nettleham.
 August 6. Hainton.
 " 23. Louth.
 September 6. Thwangeastr'.
 " 18, 21. Sleaford.
 October 17, 19, 20. London, Old
 Temple.
 " 22. Theydon Mount.
 " 30. Caldwell.
 November 4. Elstow.
 " 6. Edlesborough.
 " 18. Great Milton.
 " 25. Brackley.
 " 30. Chalcombe.
 December 20 ? Higham Gobion.
 " 24, 27. Buckden.

1282

January 3, 5, 14. Buckden.
 " 18. Spaldwick.
 " 21. Stoke.
 February 1. Northampton.
 " 5. Kilsby.
 " 21, 24, 27, March 3. Leicester.
 March 14, 15. Melton Mowbray.
 " 27, 31. Lincoln.
 April 11. Heilgton'.
 " 15. Buckden.
 " 28. Chelges, near Ware.
 May 1. Buckden.
 " 12. Rushton near Rothwell.
 " 18, 20. Liddington.
 " 23, 24, 26, 27. Stamford.
 " 31, June 1. Newstead-by-Stam-
 ford.
 June 12, 13, 15. Spalding.
 " 15. Spalding—Crowland.
 " 24. Frieston near Boston.
 " 26. Bolingbroke.
 July 14. Stainfield.
 " 16. Wragby.
 " 21. Ranby.
 " 22. Markby.
 " 30, August 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 25,
 26, 27, September 4. Louth.
 September 6. Nocton.
 " 14. Louth.
 " 19, 23. Grimsby.
 " 29. Thornton.
 October 2. Thornholm Priory.
 " 5. Lincoln.
 " 16. Nettleham.

October 23. Stow Park.
 November 3. Coddington.
 " 5. Navenby.
 " 14. Sleaford.
 " 20. Wilsford.
 " 21, 23. Sleaford.
 " 30. Liddington.
 December 19. Wycombe.
 " 21. Missenden.
 " 30. Fingest.

1283

January 19, 23. Church Brampton.
 " 30, February 8. Banbury.
 February 15, 20. Northampton.
 " 28. Canons Ashby.
 March 13, 14. Eynsham.
 " 17. Godstow, Cuddesdon.
 " 26. Oxford.
 " 27, 28, April 1, 3, 6. Milton.
 April 13. Elstow.
 " 18, 19, 22, May 1. Buckden.
 May 12. London, Old Temple.
 " 27. Milton.
 June 3. Northampton.
 " 12. Stamford.
 " 13. Ketton.
 " 17, 18. Peterborough.
 July 15, 16. Nettleham.
 " 21, 24, August 10, 25. Louth.
 September 18, 19. Lincoln.
 " 22, 25. Nettleham.
 " 30. Coddington.
 October 5. Lavington.
 " 7. Liddington.
 " 9. Thorpe.
 November 8. Milton.
 " 23. Aston.
 " 25. Buckingham.
 December 1. Elstow.
 " 5, 8, 12, 17. Buckden.
 " 18. Brampton near Huntingdon.

1284

January 10. York.
 " 20, 23, 24. Stow Park.
 February 4, 7, 12. Lincoln.
 " 19. Stow Park.
 March 4. Lincoln.
 " 11. Minting.
 " 25. Markby.
 " 28. Burwell.
 " 31, April 6. Louth.
 April 26. Sixhills.
 May 5. Kirton.
 " 8, 15. Nettleham.
 " 16. Fosse Priory.
 " 29. Caldbach, Spalding.
 June 1. Crowland.
 " 3. S. Leonard's outside Stamford, Stamford.
 " 7, 26. Liddington.
 " 28. Owston.
 " 30. Leicester.

July 6. Garendon.
 " 16. Northampton.
 " 19. Blisworth.
 " 24. Banbury.
 " 25. Wroxton.
 " 28. Godstow.
 August 5. Edlesborough.
 " 21. Buckden.
 September 14. S. Katherine's outside Lincoln.
 " 16, 18. Nettleham.
 " 22. Stow Park.
 " 23. Torksey.
 " 24, 25. Stow Park.
 October 11. Rothwell.
 " 14. Northampton.
 " 16, 19. Milton.
 " 22. Shiplake.
 November 12. Thame.
 " 16. Milton.
 December 8. Bedford.
 " 17. Buckden.
 " 23. Brampton near Huntingdon.
 " 30. Buckden.

1285

January 21, 22, 26, 31, February 1. Banbury.
 February 17. Witney.
 " 28. Daventry.
 March 2. Rothwell.
 " 10. Brampton near Huntingdon.
 April 2, 6. Buckden.
 " 8, 11, 16. Biggleswade.
 " 21. Ware.
 " 23, May 2, 10. London, Old Temple.
 May 19, 20. Hertford.
 " 30. Risborough.
 June 12, 18, July 1. Buckden.
 July 9. Leicester.
 " 12. Melton Mowbray.
 " 14. Liddington.
 " 17. Sempringham.
 September 6. Grimsby.
 " 9. Louth.
 " 16. Stickney.
 " 17. Stixwold, Mere.
 " 22, 23. Lincoln.
 " 25, 27, 28, 30. Nettleham.
 October 5. Nocton.
 " 8, 12, 13. Sleaford.
 " 21. Ramsey.
 " 28, November 4. London, Old Temple.
 November 30. Theydon Mount.
 December 22. Brampton near Huntingdon.
 " 26. Buckden.

1286

January 10, 14, 15, 21. Buckden.
 " 26, 27. Spaldwick.

February 2, 3. Biggleswade.
 " 16. London, Old Temple.
 March 5. Fingest.
 " 8. Goring.
 " 9. Dorchester-on-Thames.
 " 29. Lutterworth.
 " 30, 31. Leicester, S. Mary de Pratis.
 April 2. Bingham.
 " 9. Stow Park.
 " 11, 12. Lincoln.
 " 27. London, Old Temple.
 May 4, 6. Theydon Mount.
 " 10. Biggleswade.
 " 21. Edlesborough.
 " 28. Raveley.
 June 8, 9. York.
 " 14, 18, 19, 21. Stow Park.
 July 3, 10. Louth.
 " 23. Lincoln.
 " 26. Liddington.
 August 3. Brackley.
 " 5, 14, 23. Liddington.
 " 24. Stoke by Oundle.
 " 25, 29. Spaldwick.
 September 2, 3. Buckden.
 " 20. Colsterworth, Emping-ham.
 October 3, 5. Northampton, S. Andrew's.
 " 12. Barnet.
 " 18. London, Old Temple.
 November 13, 15, 17, December 4, 11, 14, 15, 18. Fingest.
 December 21, 22. Thame.
 " 26. Fingest.

1287

January 2, 9, February 18, 27. Fingest.
 March 1. Wycombe.
 " 2. Woburn.
 " 3. Wycombe.
 " 12. Missenden.
 " 20. Mursley.
 " 22. Bradwell.
 " 29. Buckingham.
 April 2, 3, 5, 10, 18. Banbury.
 " 24. Brackley.
 " 28. Passenham.
 May 11. London, Old Temple.
 " 25. Theydon Mount.
 " 31. Faversham.
 June 5. London, Old Temple.
 " 26. Theydon Mount.
 " 28. Eynsham.
 July 1. Daventry.
 " 4. Leicester.
 " 7. Leicester, Owston.
 " 10, 11, 12. Liddington.
 " 18. Grantham.
 " 21. Stow Park.
 " 25. Torksey.
 August 1, 5. Stow Park.
 " 6. Torksey.

August 16. Lincoln.
 September 8, 23, 26. Louth.
 October 2. Grimsby.
 " 26. Nettleham.
 " 30. Stow Park.
 November 2. Sleaford.
 " 8. Peterborough.
 " 16, December 8, 15. Buckden.
 December 20. Huntingdon.
 " 21, 30. Buckden.

1288

January 8, 9. Buckden.
 " 12, 13. S. Ives.
 " 15, 31. Buckden.
 February 21. Bedford.
 " 22, 23. Newnham.
 March 12, 13, 21, 24, 29, April 11, 12, 13. Buckden.
 April 22, 23, 24. Theydon Mount.
 May 17. Fingest.
 " 22. Thame.
 June 7. Hincley.
 " 10. Gracedieu.
 " 20, 25, 26. Liddington.
 July 31. Nettleham.
 August 19. Stow Park.
 " 30. September 3. Lincoln.
 September 6. Corby.
 " 16. Weston.
 " 18. Hertford.
 October 15, 16, 17, 21. London, Old Temple.
 November 6. Biggleswade.
 " 18, 25, 27, December 16. Buckden.
 December 18. Huntingdon.
 " 24, 26, 30. Buckden.

1289

January 10, 18, 21, 24, 26, 30, February 10. Buckden.
 February 12. Bushmead.
 " 25. Fingest.
 March 5. Fingest, Wycombe.
 " 12. Woburn.
 April 2. Kidlington.
 May 31—June 2. Edlesborough.
 June 4. Dunstable.
 " 6. Edlesborough.
 " 8. Thoroton.
 " 22. Liddington.
 July 16, 18. Nettleham.
 " 30. Louth.
 August 22, 24, 26. Stow Park.
 September 5. Liddington.
 " 14. Stoke-by-Nayland.
 " 15. Haverhill.
 " 19. Oundle.
 " 24. Lincoln.
 October 3. Stow Park.
 " 21, 22. Hagworthingham.
 " 31, November 23. Nettleham.
 November 30. Bassingham.

December 4. Sempringham.
 " 8. Sleaford.
 " 11. Sempringham.
 " 17. Stamford, S. Leonard's.
 " 18, 19. Uffington.
 " 26, 29. Buckden.

1290

January 3. Ware.
 " 20. London, Old Temple.
 February 3, 11. Buckden.
 " 25, 26. Northampton.
 March 3. Blisworth.
 " 5, 6. Brackley.
 " 8. Canons Ashby.
 " 29, April 11. Liddington.
 April 12. Noseley.
 " 19. Leicester.
 May 3. Hinckley.
 " 13. Kidlington.
 " 19. Hayes.
 " 22. London.
 " 27. Wheathampstead.
 " 28. Brickendon.
 " 29. Wheathampstead.
 " 30—June 1. Edlesborough.
 June 4. Nutley.
 " 6. Newton Longville.
 " 7. Higham Gobion, Newport Pagnell.
 " 13—18. Liddington.
 " 20—22. Wittering.
 " 24. Peterborough.
 " 27. Spalding.
 " 29. Gedney.
 July 2. Frieston.
 " 4. Baumber.
 " 6. Waddington.
 " 7. Braunston.
 " 10—13. Newark.
 " 17—August 11. Sleaford.
 August 14. Lincoln.
 " 18—21. Nettleham.
 " 24—27. Louth.
 " 31. Hagworthingham.
 September 2. Sibsey.
 " 6. Nettleham.
 " 7—11. Stow Park.
 " 14. Newark.
 " 20. Liddington.
 " 22—23. Tinwell.
 " 26. Liddington.
 October 3. Haddenham.
 " 4. S. Ives.
 " 6—17. Buckden.
 " 24. Ramsey.
 " 26—29. Buckden.
 November 1. Sleaford.
 " 8—18. Buckden.
 " 22. Biggleswade.
 " 24. Baldock.
 " 25. " Hithes."
 " 26. Berkhamstead.
 December 16—20. London.
 " 23—31. Fingest.

1291

January 1—21. Fingest.
 " 21. Wooburn.
 " 26—February 3. Fingest.
 February 4. Caversham.
 " 11. Stoke Albany.
 " 12. Beckley.
 " 14. Dorchester-on-Thames.
 " 21—24. Osney.
 " 25—28. Eynsham.
 " 28. Bampton.
 March 3. Cold Norton.
 " 5—9. Banbury.
 " 17—19. Northampton.
 " 24. Peatling.
 " 31—April 2. Liddington.
 April 8. Sleaford.
 " 11. Scarle.
 " 15. Stow Park.
 " 23. Lincoln.
 " 25. Nettleham.
 " 26. Lincoln—Nettleham.
 May 4—18. Owston—Corringham.
 " 28. Thornholm.
 June 1—2. Newhouse.
 " 4. Humberston.
 " 6—12. Louth.
 " 13. Markby.
 " 16. Boston.
 " 17. Kirtlington-in-Holland.
 " 18—24. Sleaford.
 " 26. Sempringham.
 " 28. Market Deeping.
 " 29. Caistor.
 July 2—August 25. Spaldwick.
 August 27. Biggleswade.
 " 28. ? Ardley.
 " 29. Rowney.
 " 31—September 1. London.
 September 8—12. Figcheldean.
 " 12. Amesbury.
 " 15. Banbury.
 " 16. Burford.
 " 17. Banbury—Daventry.
 " 19. Leicester.
 " 22. Grantham.
 " 23. Aurbourn.
 " 26—27. Nettleham.
 " 28. Lincoln.
 October 2—7. Stow Park.
 " 9—10. Newark.
 " 12. Nassington.
 " 13. Spaldwick.
 " 18. Cheshunt.
 " 20—25. London.
 " 27—November 24. Theydon.
 November 28—December 10. London.
 December 15—21. Wooburn.
 " 26—31. Fingest.

1292

January 1—9. Fingest.
 " 16—18. Wooburn.
 " 22—30. Fingest.
 February 12—24. London.

March 3—8. Wooburn.
 „ 17. Canterbury—Howfield.
 „ 20—22. London.
 „ 23. Hertford.
 „ 25. Wooburn—Wheathampstead.
 „ 29. Missenden.

April 10—12. Fingest.
 „ 16—19. London.
 „ 21. Ellington.
 „ 26. Buckden.

May 1. Edlesborough.
 „ 3. Aylesbury.
 „ 6—8. Fingest.
 „ 16. Dorchester-on-Thames.
 „ 19. Osney.
 „ 20. Kidlington.
 „ 21. Banbury.
 „ 23. Peatling Magna.
 „ 24. Leicester.
 „ 27. Harby.
 „ 29—June 3. Nettleham.

June 6—21. Stow Park.
 „ 25. Thornholm.
 „ 27. Barton-on-Humber.
 „ 29—30. Thornton.

July 2. Grimsby.
 „ 4. Humberson.
 „ 6—11. Louth.
 „ 13. Markby.
 „ 19, 20. Bardney.
 „ 22. Nettleham—Stainfield.
 „ 26—31. Stow Park.

August 3. Loughton.
 „ 6—12. Stow Park.
 „ 16. Lincoln.
 „ 16—21. Nettleham.
 „ 21. Lincoln.
 „ 22. Nocton.
 „ 26—30. Sleaford.
 „ 31. Sempringham.

September 2. Spalding.
 „ 3. Crowland.
 „ 5—7. Newstead-by-Stamford.
 „ 8—17. Liddington.
 „ 22—24. Northampton.
 „ 26. Kilsby.
 „ 28. Eaton.

October 2—9. Banbury.
 „ 14—November 26. Spaldwick.
 November 30—December 1. Biggleswade.
 December 12—20. Dorchester-on-Thames.
 „ 27—31. Fingest.

1293

January 1—February 2. Fingest.
 February 6. Wooburn.
 „ 7. Isleworth.
 „ 13—March 20. London.
 March 30—31. Whaddon.
 April 1—8. Biggleswade.
 „ 13—May 13. London.
 May 15. Newnton.
 „ 20—30. London.
 June 5—6. Theydon.
 „ 15—18. London.

June 24. Wooburn.
 „ 26. Goring.
 „ 29—July 3. Dorchester.

July 5. Notley.
 „ 9—11. Osney.
 „ 11—13. Eynsham.
 „ 16—21. Banbury.
 „ 22. Daventry.
 „ 26—27. Leicester.
 „ 30—August 4. Liddington.

August 6. Waltham.
 „ 11—12. Stow Park.
 „ 15—16. Lincoln.
 „ 18—23. Nettleham.
 „ 26—28. Stow Park.
 „ 31. Thornholm.

September 1. Elsham.
 „ 4. Grimsby.
 „ 7—9. Louth.
 „ 10. Wainfleet.
 „ 13. Sibsey.
 „ 14. Horncastle.
 „ 20. Mere.
 „ 20—22. Sleaford.
 „ 23. Spalding.
 „ 24. Gosberton.
 „ 25. Crowland.
 „ 26. Peterborough.
 „ 27. Yaxley.
 „ 28, 29. Ramsey.
 „ 29. Buckden.

October 2, 3. Biggleswade.
 „ 7. London.
 „ 13—18. Theydon.
 „ 21—December 12. London.

December 13. Acton.
 „ 15—19. Wooburn.
 „ 19. Wycombe.
 „ 20. Wooburn.
 „ 27—31. Fingest.

1294

January 1—7. Fingest.
 „ 15. Upton.
 „ 16, 17. Wooburn.
 „ 21, 22. Fingest.
 „ 26—29. Dorchester-on-Thames.
 February 2. Wooburn.
 „ 7—12. London.
 „ 14. Waterend Farm, Sand-
 ridge.
 „ 16. Berkhamstead.
 „ 17—24. Dorchester-on-Thames.
 „ 26. Osney.
 „ 28. Oxford.
 March 1. Godstow.
 „ 2. Daddington.
 „ 4—12. Banbury.
 „ 19. Biddlesdon.
 „ 20. Luffield.
 „ 22. Bicester.
 „ 26. Newnham.
 „ 27—April 2. Spaldwick.
 April 4. Buckden.
 „ 9. London.

April 13. Sibertswold.
 " 14. Canterbury.
 " 15. Newendon.
 " 17. London.
 " 21—27. Biggleswade.
 " 30. Buckden.
 " 30—May 3. Spaldwick.
 May 4. Buckden.
 " 5, 6. Biggleswade.
 " 10—15. London.
 " 17—23. Theydon.
 " 29—June 3. London.
 June 22—24. Edmonton.
 " 26. Ware.
 " 27—30. Biggleswade.
 July 5—10. Spaldwick.
 " 13. Dunstable.
 " 16. Fingest.
 " 21—25. Hambledon (Hants.).
 " 27—28. Alton.
 " 31—August 1. London.
 August 1. Hillingdon.
 " 3—26. Wooburn.
 " 26. Fingest.
 " 31. Fairford.
 September 1. Buckland.
 " 3—13. Dorchester-on-Thames.
 " 18. Dunstable.
 " 19. Edlesborough.
 " 19—21. Watford.
 " 21—October 10. London.
 October 12. Wooburn.
 " 16. Thame.
 " 20. Twyford.
 " 22. Courteenhall.
 " 23, 24. Northampton.
 " 27. Maidwell, Kibworth.
 " 29, 30. Leicester.
 " 31. Tilton.
 November 1—7. Liddington.
 " 9—15. Nettleham.
 " 16—18. Lincoln.
 " 18. Nettleham.
 " 25—December 20. Stow Park.
 December 27—31. Louth.

1295

January 1—9. Louth.
 " 13. Belleau.
 " 14—22. Louth.
 " 27. Ailby.
 " 28. Riby.
 " 29. Thornton.
 " 31. Barton.
 February 1—3. Elsham.
 " 3. Thornholm.
 " 5. Norton.
 " 8—18. Nettleham.
 " 18—20. Newark.
 " 22. Norton Disney.
 " 24. Nettleham.

February 26. Lincoln.
 " 26, 27. Nettleham.
 March 2. Bardney.
 " 5, 7. Horncastle.
 " 7, 8—Asgarby.
 " 12. Baumber.
 " 14, 15. Nettleham.
 " 18. Lincoln.
 " 19—22. Stow Park.
 " 23. Lincoln.
 " 26. Silk Willoughby.
 " 26. Sleaford.
 April 1—13. Liddington.
 " 16, 17. Newstead-by-Stamford.
 " 19. Stanground.
 " 20. Nassington.
 " 21. Stanground.
 " 22. Nassington.
 " 25—May 5. Spaldwick.
 May 9. Biggleswade.
 " 10. Cheshunt.
 " 14—17. London.
 " 18—25. Theydon.
 " 27—31. London.
 June 8—24. Theydon.
 " 27. Watton.
 " 28, 29. Biggleswade.

July 2—4. Buckden.
 " 5, 6. Caldwell.
 " 7—11. Biggleswade.
 " 14—21. London.
 " 22—27. Theydon.
 August 3—16. London.
 " 17. Stanwell.
 " 19—22. Wooburn.
 " 24. Thame.
 " 29. Godstow.
 " 30. Eynsham.
 " 31. Daddington.
 September 2—9. Banbury.¹
 " 10. Chalcombe.
 " 24. Berkhamstead.
 " 28. London.
 October 2. Chartham (Kent).
 " 25. Kirton-in-Holland.
 " 29. Market Deeping.
 " 31. Oundle.
 November 11. Biggleswade.
 " 14, 21. Buckden.
 December 6. London.
 " 14. Biggleswade.
 " 15. Buckden.
 " 17, 18. Huntingdon.
 " 18. Buckden.
 " 26. Fingest.

1296

January 12—19. Fingest.
 " 26. Dorchester-on-Thames.
 " 26. Thame.
 February 3—7. Banbury.

¹ The folios of the memoranda dealing with the period September 3, 1295, to January 12, 1296, are lost. The itinerary for this period has been compiled from the institution records and is incomplete.

February 9—11. Aston.
 „ 13. Catesby.
 „ 14. Kilsby.
 „ 16. Naseby.
 „ 18, 19. Rothwell.
 „ 20. Rockingham.
 „ 20, 21. Liddington.
 „ 22. Uppingham.
 „ 23—March 10. Liddington.
 March 11. Launde.
 „ 12. Owston.
 „ 19. Newark.
 „ 22, 23. Lincoln.
 „ 29. Clifton.
 „ 30. Nettleham.
 April 4. Lincoln.
 „ 5. Nettleham.
 „ 7. Lincoln.
 „ 8—19. Nettleham.
 „ 21. Lincoln.
 „ 22. Nettleham.
 „ 26—May 16. Stow Park.
 May 16. Nettleham.
 „ 17. Lincoln.
 „ 17—19. Nettleham.
 „ 19. Lincoln.
 „ 21. Nettleham.
 „ 23. Bardney.
 „ 27. Frieston.
 „ 30. Eresby.
 „ 31. Belleau.
 June 3—7. Louth.
 „ 8. Wellow.
 „ 9. Grimsby.
 „ 13. Elsham.
 „ 14, 15. Thornholm.
 „ 19—21. Stow Park.
 „ 22. Lincoln.
 „ 27—July 2. Stow Park.
 July 4, 5. Nocton.
 „ 6. Kyme.
 „ 7—20. Sleaford.
 „ 21. Sempringham.
 „ 25—August 11. Sleaford.
 August 16—18. Nettleham.
 „ 19—September 17. Stow Park.
 September 19—21. Nettleham.
 „ 22. Lincoln.
 „ 22—27. Nettleham.
 „ 30. Lincoln.
 October 10—16. Stow Park.
 „ 22. Nettleham.
 „ 31. Buckden.
 November 7—16. Bury St. Edmund's.
 „ 17. Exning.
 „ 19. Histon.
 „ 21—December 1. Buckden.
 December 4. Buckingham.
 „ 7—20. Buckden.
 „ 22. Huntingdon.
 „ 26—31. Buckden.
 1297
 January 1—4. Buckden.
 „ 15—24. London.

January 25. Tottenham.
 „ 29, 30. Biggleswade.
 „ 31—March 9. Buckden.
 March 9. Brampton near Huntingdon.
 „ 13—17. Buckden.
 „ 25—April 4. London.
 April 8—May 5. Wooburn.
 May 9. Missenden.
 „ 10—12. Berkhamstead.
 „ 14—16. Hatfield.
 „ 17. Waltham.
 „ 22—June 28. Theydon.
 July 3—24. London.
 „ 25. Woodford (Essex).
 „ 27—31. Theydon.
 August 11—15. London.
 „ 20. Biggleswade.
 „ 24, 25. Newnham.
 „ 27. Harrold.
 „ 31. Buckingham.
 September 3. Notley.
 „ 5—8. Osney.
 „ 9. Eynsham.
 „ 11. Chipping Norton.
 „ 16. Banbury.
 „ 17. Aston.
 „ 21—26. Leicester.
 October 6. Panton.
 „ 7—11. Sleaford.
 „ 11. Mere.
 „ 14—17. Nettleham.
 „ 25—November 11. Stow Park.
 November 18. Lincoln.
 „ 19—22. Nettleham.
 „ 28—30. Horncastle.
 December 2. Asterby.
 „ 3—31. Louth.
 1298
 January 1—13. Louth.
 „ 17. Grimsby.
 „ 20—22. Thornton Curtis.
 „ 23. Elsham.
 „ 26. Thornholm.
 „ 27. Kirton in Lindsey.
 „ 30—February 5. Nettleham.
 February 18. Lincoln.
 „ 24—March 3. Nettleham.
 March 5—15. Stow Park.
 „ 16—22. Nettleham.
 „ 22. Lincoln.
 „ 24—27. Nettleham.
 „ 30. Waddington.
 „ 31. Temple Bruer.
 April 1—9. Sleaford.
 „ 11. Kyme, Nettleham.
 „ 12. Sleaford.
 „ 17. Haugh.
 „ 22—24. Newark.
 „ 26. Panton.
 „ 27. Bytham.
 „ 28. Norwell.
 „ 29. Eimpringham.
 „ 30—May 8. Liddington.
 May 9. Tinwell.

May 11. Newstead-by-Stanford.
 „ 12. Nassington.
 „ 14. Spaldwick.
 „ 15—26. Buckden.¹
 „ 31. Brampton near Huntingdon.
 June 6. Buckden.
 „ 26, 27. London.
 August 13. Melchbourne.
 „ 14—September 18. Buckden.
 September 20. Brampton near Huntingdon.
 „ 20—25. Buckden.
 October 1. Stanground, Peterborough.
 „ 3. Crowland.
 „ 4, 5. Spalding.
 „ 6. Gosberton.
 „ 11—13. Sleaford.
 October 16. Mere.
 „ 17. Nettleham.
 „ 18. Lincoln.
 „ 19—31. Nettleham.
 November 1. Lincoln.
 „ 3. Nettleham.
 „ 8, 9. Stow Park.
 „ 15—22. Nettleham.
 „ 26. S. Katherine's outside Lincoln.
 „ 27. Lincoln.
 „ 28—December 5. Newark.

December 6. Panton.
 „ 8. Empingham.
 „ 12—31. Liddington.

1299

January 1—February 21. Liddington.
 February 24—March 13. Buckden.
 March 16. Biggleswade.
 „ 22—29. London.
 April 1. Edlington.
 „ 2. "Erdele".
 „ 3—5. Biggleswade.
 „ 7—June 26. Buckden.
 June 29. Spaldwick.
 July 2. Barnwell.
 „ 7—11. Liddington.
 „ 15—16. Newstead-by-Stamford.
 „ 17. Bourne.
 „ 21—23. Sleaford.
 „ 29—August 2. Nettleham.
 August 11. Stow Park.
 „ 16. Lincoln.
 „ 19—September 12. Stow Park.²
 September 20. Nettleham.
 „ 25. Stow Park.
 October 16. Sixhills.
 „ 19. Louth.
 „ 30—November 13. Nettleham.

¹ The folios of the memoranda dealing with the period May 26, 1298, to August 13, 1298, are lost. The itinerary for this period has been compiled from the institution records and is incomplete.

² The last entry in the memoranda is dated September 12. The remainder of the itinerary is compiled from the institution records.

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